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THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND:

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS

OF THE

MINISTERS

OF THE

DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

VOLUME FIFTEENTH.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
Cicero, de Orat. lib. ii.

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M,DCC,XCV.

GR III
BRITISH KINGDOM

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	Totals,	34,367	39,692	7805	2480	
			34,367	2480		
	Increaſe in 1792-4, -		5,325	5325		

* This is ſuppoſed to be the population in 1755.

† This was the population in 1772.

ERRATA.

PAGE 46 *Line* 28, *for* 1824 *read* 1784.
— 134 — 9, — coaſt *read* pariſh.
— 135 — 21, — Rothſay *read* Rattray.
— ib. — 30, — Auchines *read* Auchiries.
— 136 — 25, *after* illam *add* medietatem.
— 138 — 6, *for* 1200 *read* 400 barrels.
— 145 — 28, — reprinted *read* uprinted Acts.
— 147 — 12, — his right *read* her right.
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— 332 — 23, — ſixty *read* ſix.
— 340 — 6, — 1 *read* 10 *before* 100.
— 354 — 28, — 17 *read* 7
— 361 — 2, — 1792 *read* 1793.
— 363 — 12 — 110 *read* 150.
— 368 — 26, *read* York Building Company.
— 369 — 3, *for* Sunday *read* Saturday.
— 373 — 8, — 28 *read* 38.
— 376 — 9, — a few *read* few.
— 377 — 18, — baſked *read* baked.
— 379 — 22, — 1793 *read* 1703.
— 558 — 27, — Toner *read* Tower.
— 561 — 25 — is *read* it.

THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART XV.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF LANARK.

(County, and presbytery of Lanark, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By Mr. WILLIAM LOCKHART of Baronald.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.

THIS Pariſh is situated in the ſhire and presbytery of Lanark, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr; is between 4 and 5 miles in length stretching along the Eastern bank of the Clyde, and about three in breadth. The generality of the pariſh consists of pretty flat and improvable land; but along the Clyde from Bonniton-fall downwards for the space of more than 3 miles, the banks are high, precipitous, and rocky, which however are pretty generally fringed with natural wood and planting. The banks

banks of the Mouſs, the only other river of any size, and which running from East to West, separates the pariſh into two distinct parts, are equally precipitous and rocky, but also clothed with natural wood, and plantations of forest trees.

The highest ground in the pariſh, for there is no hill, is Lanark and Lee moors, both being pretty equal in height, and about 760 feet above sea level. The town of Lanark itself is 656 feet 5 inches above the quay at the new bridge of Glasgow.

The pariſh may contain above 6000 acres. There are probably upwards of 600 acres of coppice wood and plantations, and 1800 acres of moor ground, which leaves about 3600 acres for cultivation. The moory grounds, which also contain some little moſs, belong to two different proprietors. Lanark moor, consisting of about 1500 acres, is the property of the community: and Lee-moor consisting of about 300 acres belongs to the estate of Lee. About 50 years ago the magistrates of Lanark, let to the inhabitants of the burgh on leases of 57 years, several small lots, at the extremity of their moor or common, at from 6d. to 1s. 8d. per acre, with the view of getting them inclosed and improven; but the distance from town, about two miles, and other circumstances, prevented much improvement from being made upon them: such lots however as were situated nighest the town, and have been kept fencible, now let from 10s. to 20s. per acre. About 20 years ago, the town planted about 60 acres of this moor, mostly with Scots pines, which are in a very thriving condition; and their seeds, scattered by the wind have of late produced a natural and extensive crop of young pines in the moor.

William Honeyman of Grœmsay Esq. Advocate, has lately feued from the magistrates between 2 and 300 acres

of

of this moor at 5s. per acre; and has begun to plant*, and improve it, so that what formerly afforded a small pittance to a few half-starved cattle, will soon be enabled to maintain families. The expences he has been at are already very considerable, but do not intimidate him from being still willing to poſſeſs and improve more of it, which although beneficial to the manufactures of Lanark, and to the nation at large, is opposed by a few burgeſſes, who say that they have an immemorial right of servitude upon this moor for the pasturage of a certain number of cattle, and for fuel, ſeal, and divot; and therefore, that it cannot be disposed of without being liable to such burdens,—as to which *vident jurisconsulti;* but it must be matter of great regret to every well-wiſher of his country to see so great an extent of improvable ground in the neighbourhood of a populous and manufacturing town, abandoned to heath and bent-graſs.

Lee-moor‡ is in the like rude and uncultivated state, although equally improvable, and much nearer to coal and lime, than the former. This however is the fault of the proprietor, or rather owing to that bane of all improvement, an entailed estate *. It is considerably leſs

* He has planted about 80 acres with Scots pine, larch, beech, ash, &c:

‡ In travelling through Scotland, whenever the stranger meets with any large portion of improvable land in a state of nature, he may rest satisfied that the ground is either under a strict entail, or that the proprietor has an overgrown estate. In ſhort the fact is so glaring, that for the good of society and the nation at large, it were to be wiſhed, that some measure could be thought of either to oblige such proprietors to improve those grounds themselves, or to feu or sell them by public roup, at least to let them, to people willing to improve them, on such terms as may be fixed by the Board of Agriculture lately eſtabliſhed. Such a plan would soon bring the country

leſs in extent than Lanark-moor, and thence would require leſs expence to bring it under tillage: It is to be hoped however from the promising appearance of the young proprietor, that it will soon be brought into a state of cultivation and improvement.

The South and East parts of the pariſh, excepting the burrow lands, which consist of a rich loam, are in general inclined to be light and gravelly. The estates of Lee, Cleghorn, Jerviswood, the Namphlars, and the rest of the pariſh, consist of a very improvable clayey soil, adapted for wheat, provided there were spirit enough in the country to promote the erection of a flour mill; but, as at present there is no flour mill nearer than Hamilton, 12 miles off, there is no encouragement towards the culture of that profitable and useful crop.

Minerals. There is no coal in the pariſh hitherto discovered; but in the neighbouring pariſhes of Carluke, Carmichael, and Lesmahago, there are plenty of coal-pits. Coal at Lanark sells in general at about 3s. or 3s. 4d. the 800 weight: Cannel coal from Lesmahago pariſh, sells somewhat higher, which being of a very bituminous nature,

country under cultivation, increase its population and manufactures, prevent in some measure emigrations, and would have the tendency of always preserving peace and good order in the country. The greater the number of proprietors in a kingdom so much the more numerous will be the friends and supporters of its government, as it increases the number of those who are materially interested in its welfare. But whenever the whole lands of a kingdom, as was the case in France, are absorbed by a few, it is only those few that are more peculiarly interested in its welfare; for people, whose property is in money or the produce of their industry, may leave the kingdom at pleasure, and cannot posibly take that warm interest in the fate of the country which the proprietor and colonist, who in some measure may be said to be chained to the soil, must necesarily do.

ture, and approaching near to jet, is used by the poorer sort of people in place of candle.

There is little or no freestone in the parish. A quarry has some time ago been opened in Lee-moor; one lately at the Boathouses in the S. E. corner of the parish; and a coarse kind of freestone is to be had upon the Mouss on the Jerviswood estate, but hitherto has been discovered no where else. Limestone is wrought in Lee-moor and Kilncadzow on the borders of the parish, in considerable quantities; and underneath it, is generally found a thin seam of coal, often sufficient to burn what is dug out, into lime. The rocks in the parish consist generally of a browniſh micaceous moor stone, which splits and breaks into thin pieces unfit for any thing but ruble work. Clay fit either for bricks or pottery work, may be had in several parts of the parish.

The only appearance of mines is in Jerviswood grounds, where there has lately been discovered a thick seam of quartz, baſseting out to the day, intermixed with small veins of rich iron ore, but, as such, by no means worth the working. As however lead mines frequently put on similar appearances at the top, there is no saying what may be discovered on going a little deeper. Pieces of very pretty jasper have been picked up, in the bed of the Mouss, in detached and water-worn nodules; as also great plenty of ochres, but no iron stone excepting about the coal pits at Gillfoot on the ſkirts of the parish. Close by the old bridge of Lanark have been found in a detached and water-worn piece of limestone, petrified *pholades* and cockle ſhells; which bridge, by general Roy's measurement, is 362 feet 5 inches above the quay at the new bridge of Glasgow, and 24 miles distant from it.

Etymology

Etymology, Language, and Antiquities. The Damnii of Ptolomy among other counties, most certainly poſſeſsed all Lanarkſhire. Ptolomy however makes no mention of the word Lanark, or any of a similar sound. Baxter, with others, have deemed Lanark to be the *Ugrulentum* of the anonymous geographer of Ravenna, and not without some degree of probability. Baxter's derivation however of *Ugrulentum* from the Welſh *uger lent*, which as he says, signifies *ripa humidi, vel aquæ*, is totally inapplicable to the situation of Lanark, it being situated on a dry and elevated situation, 292 feet 1 inch above the level of the Clyde. He is equally unhappy in his etymology of Lanark, which he derives from *Lan ærig, i. e.* ripa fluminis, this town not being situated within view of the river, nor upon its immediate bank, but about half a mile from it.*

It is true we have a late author, (Mr Pinkerton) who defends the fabulous kingdom of the Stratclyde Britons of Lanarkſhire, and the Welſh derivation of Lanark; but he, in aid of his hypothesis is obliged to resort to aſsertions totally void of foundation. Thus he tells

* *Jones* in his origin of language and nations, (a whimsical book,) says that Lanark, "is the same as the Welſh *Lanerch*, an upper or higher yard or "inclosure", which is hardly so improbable as the other. Indeed in the Welſh language we find many etymons such as *Llanerch*, a green or a bare place in a wood; and *Lanherch*, a forest, as Lluyd tells us. *Lanerch* is actually the name of a town on the Clwyd in Wales: and *Lan* in Welſh as in Gaelic, signifies a church, churchyard, or inclosure. But the same Lluyd in his Welſh preface to the *Archealogia* tells us, and proves it pretty clearly, that a very great many of the names of places in Wales itself, can only be derived from the Gaelic, the Gael being the original inhabitants of Great Britain as well as of continental Gaul, which is farther proved by the tracts publiſhed in 1737, by Mr Malcolme, minister of Duddingston, and of late by the two Meſsrs. M'Phersons, so that the etymology of Lanark falls rather to be sought for in the Gaelic than Welſh.

tells us,* that, " In Clydesdale at present if you will " ask the common people about any ancient castle or the " like, they will tell it was erected by the *Brets* or the " Piks." Now although they ascribe some of their ancient buildings, such as the high church of Glasgow, to the Picts, or Peghs, as they call them, yet it is matter of notoriety that the word *Bret* is utterly unknown to the common people of Clydesdale. This he has advanced merely for the purp oe of supporting a favourite system, and to mislead in the same way that he, in a former publication, had averred that scraps of the second part of his *own* Hardyknute were sung immemorially by the common people of Clydesdale. Mr Pinkerton also avers that the language of this part of Scotland still retains something of the Welsh accent. This is equally groundless, nor can he point out one single instance of it; and although numerous words used in the county are Gaelic, yet none are Welsh, unless in common with the Gaelic.

Indeed Mr Pinkerton in his edition of the *Vitæ Sanctorum Scotiæ*, furnishes us himself with evident proofs of the fallacy of his own averments. In the life of St. Kentigern or St. Mungo of Glasgow, who flourished in 580, collected from an old copy in Gaelic, and another in Latin by Josceline, about anno 1180, we learn, cap. 4, that this Saint was called " *Kyentyren* quod interpretatur " *capitalis Dominus*," which is pure Gaelic at this day; and not Welch. His other name of *Munghu* " quod " (says Josceline) Latine dicitur *carus amicus*," is not Welsh but more probably Gaelic; thus *Eun caomh* may have been spelt *Munghu*, the Gaelic pronounceation being pretty similar, the literal signification of which is *Dear bird*

*Inquiry into the hist. of Scotland, vol. I, p. 81.

bird; and dear bird, or my bird, is still used familiarly to a young friend or youth, which Kentigern was when he received that epithet from St. Servanus the *Pictiſh* Abbot of Culroſs. In cap. xi. we learn that *Glasgow*, formerly *Cuthures*, was in the Saint's time, from the monastery therein situated, called "*Deschu*, quod interpretatur "*cara familia*." Neither is this Welſh:—But the Gaelic words *Paisde caomh*, i. e. dear children or family, have nearly in that language the sound of, and may have been spelt *Deschu*, in that early age, in the same way that *Deschu* is now pronounced and spelt Glasgow. And in cap. xxii. we learn that the *Burn*, a Gaelic word used in this county for rivulet, and at present called *Molendinar*, that runs by the High Church of Glasgow and behind the College garden, was called *Mollendonor* in the Saint's time. Now *muilean* is a mill in Gaelic, and *domhar* signifies water; from which it is evident, that the language of Glasgow in Kentigern's time, was not Welſh, but pure Gaelic; and that at this early period the Molendinor burn, as it now does, drove a mill.*

Such

* We ſhall, in farther proof, and to illustrate the language of this pariſh and county, adduce some words, among many hundreds, that might be mentioned, which are pure Gaelic. Thus *Bink*, a stone or green sod or seat before a door, is pure Gaelic. *Cromie* a cow with crooked horns, also a crooked stick, from *Cromadh* bended. *Body*, a clown or silly person, *Bodach*. *Pluck*, a carbuncle on the face, *Plucain*. *Eirack*, a chicken, Eirag. *Stock-in-horn*, a pipe with a horn used by the ſhepherds, from *Stoc* a pipe. *Kinning*, a Rabbit, *Coinain*. *Brock*, a Badger, *Broc*. *Brat*, a cover or scurf, also a piece of cloth, *Brat*. *To toom*, empty, *Taomam*. *To ding*, overcome, *Dingam*. *Glar*, puddle or filth, *Gaor*. *Ingle*, the fire, *Aingeal*. *Gairtain*, garter, *Gairtain*. *Groset*, gooseberry, *Grosaid*. *Guitar*, a gullyhole, *Guitar*. *Haggis*, a diſh, *Taiggis*. *Inch*, invariably used for an island, *Innse* or *Innis*. *Clachan*, a village, *Clachan*. *Loch*, a Lake, *Loch*. *Carameile* or *Caparcile*, the orobus *tuberosus*, being the root so much used in diet by the ancient

Caledonians

Such being the case, and as in Lanarkſhire there are no Welsh words in use, except such as are in common with the Gaelic, we may venture to affirm that the Stratclyde kingdom of Cumbric Britons is a mere dream; and that to derive our proper names from the Cumbric is idle. Indeed we cannot resort to the Welſh language for the etymon of Lanark, seeing we have a Lanark in Stirlingſhire, where no Cumbric Britons were ever settled; and a Drum-Lanark and Lanarkland in Dumfriesſhire, also without the bounds of the fabulous Stratclyde kingdom.

Lanark, or as locally pronounced Lanerick, or Landerick, is therefore more probably Gaelic. *Lan*, in Shaw's dictionary, signifies land, a house, repository, or a church. *Dearc* is the Gaelic for the Billberry, or Blaeberry, so common on high and dry grounds. *Landerick*, or *Lan na dearca*, appears therefore to denote the land, house, repository, or church of the Billberries. *Lan dearcach* signifies also Billberry land or repository, pretty descriptive of all the Lanarks. But farther, *Lan arc* signifies a full ark, or granary, and Lanark is spelt *Lanarc* in the old charters, so Lan arc may be the true etymon. These etymons, though probable, may not be just, yet are leſs liable to objection than any former one; nor would we have dwelt so long upon this article, had we not wiſhed to remove the mist attempted to be thrown, by the author above-mentioned, over the history of Clydesdale.

All the other names of the pariſh are Anglo-saxon, unleſs we except Cartlane, Baronald or Baronel, Nemphlar,

cindum

Caledonians, *Carameile*, *Salich* and *Saugh*, the Willow, *Seileach*. Kist, a chest, *cisde*, (the C sounding like K in Gaelic,) and *Kistie*, the diminutive of Kist, *Cistag*. Indeed the Gaelic diminutives are very common in the lower parts of Clydesdale, as *Jamock* for little James, Willock, &c.

and Cleghorn; which last place may have been the *Croucindum* of Baxter's Glosarium Antiquitat. Brit. as not only the Roman road passes by it, but the remains of a Roman station are still evident in one of the parks to the East of Cleghorn house.

The station or camp at Cleghorn, General Roy thinks was the work of Agricola. It measures 600 yards in length by 420 in breadth, capable of containing two Roman legions on the Polybian establishment, or 10,500 men; or it would hold one legion with its auxiliaries on a much higher establishment. Near the S. W. angle of this camp, there is a small post or redoubt, that seems either to have joined to the camp itself, or to have been connected with it by means of a line.

On the opposite side of the Mouse from Cleghorn, and in Lanark-moor, was situated another small exploratory camp of the Romans; and, within about a mile of it, there is another of a later construction at Castle-dykes, in the parish of Carstairs, through which runs the great Roman road from Lugballum, or Carlisle, to the wall of Antoninus.* The Roman road from Castle-dykes runs through part of Lanark-moor, thence passes the river Mouse a little to the Eastward of Cleghorn-bridge, hence it goes through the inclosures of Cleghorn, leaving Agricola's camp on the right, and so on by Colly-law, Killcadzow,

* General Roy tells us that near the kirk of Carstairs some remains of a bath and other antiquities have been found; so that Carstairs may be the *Corda* of Ptolemy; and the Castledykes the *Coriotitar* of the Geographer of Ravenna. At the latter place Roman bricks and coins have frequently been dug up. The late Sir George Lockhart was possessed of some of those coins, particularly a beautiful silver one of Nero's; and within these few years a considerable number, mostly of Adrian, were discovered, the bulk of which I believe are now with the Antiquarian Society. One of them is in my possession.

cadzow, Coldstream and Zuilſhields, to Balstane near Carluke, bearing the name of Watling-street, or rather Biggar road; and from thence to the wall.

About a mile North of Lanark, and upon the very brink of Cartlane rocks, on the North of the Mouſs, are the vestiges of an old stronghold, called by some Castle-dykes, and by others the castle of the *Quaw*. Perhaps from the Gaelic *Uaidh*, a cave, in allusion to the caves or strange artificial archways afterwards to be noticed. There are still evident traces of a wide, or rather a double ditch on the land side, which incloses about half a rood of ground, and on the side next to the river is a precipice upwards of 200 feet of perpendicular height. The well was very evident about 40 years ago, but is since filled up. There are at present no remains of any building, excepting some slight traces like a foundation, and some artificial caves or arched ways of a very singular construction: one of them, which I saw opened, was about 7 or 8 feet in length, and 4 feet wide, running in a bending direction towards the center of the inclosure from the brink of the rock; the height about 3½ feet. This archway was composed of huge blocks of freestone, rude and unpoliſhed, intermixt with the common moorstone of the country. It was not arched at top; but the stones laid horizontally one above another, still approaching nearer and nearer, till the sides formed a junction, and united at the top. In the bottom of the archway was a fat black earth intermixed witht some bones in the state of aſhes. Several other archways, or holes like the above, running in different directions, still exist, although not hitherto explored. The most remarkable thing attending these vestiges is, that no lime or mortar, nor the smallest appearance of lime rubbiſh is to be found among

among the ruins; so must have been erected before the introduction of mortar by the Romans.

Arthur's Oven, a Roman work, was no doubt built without mortar; but this castle, if a heap of narrow archways can be called so, seems by no means a Roman work, as no tool, nor the smallest art, has been used upon the freestone employed in it. I see by the Statistical Account, that subterraneous buildings of a similar kind have been discovered in the parishes of Applecross (vol. iii. p. 378.) and Tealing (vol. iv, p. 101.); and as last autumn, there was discovered in Lesmahago parish, near the fall of Stonebyres, at a place called Cairny Castle, similar archways, in which were found two querns, or hand-mills for grinding corn, amongst deers horns and bones of animals, I am led to believe that those archways and subterraneous passages were the temporary abodes of the ancient Britons; that no stone building was erected above them, but, if any, only temporary wooden huts, from which, in case of being set on fire by an enemy, the inhabitants might escape through the subteranneous passages, or secure themselves in them by covering their narrow mouths with stones. Indeed it would seem that Gildas had such strange and fox-like habitations in his eye, when he wrote of the third vastation of the Scots and Picts, (anno 448.) as he brings them, "De *arctissi-* "*mis foraminum caverniculis*, fusci, vermiculorum, cu- "nei, &c.*

It

* The next piece of antiquity is the Castlehill, close by, and on the S. W. side of Lanark. It has the appearance of an artificial mount; and perhaps was originally fortified by the Romans, as General Roy makes mention of a fine silver *Faustina* that was found here. Upon this hill there formerly stood a castle, which tradition ascribes to David I. The charter by William the Lion in favour of the town of Ayr, is dated from this castle, or at

Lanark,

It does not appear when, or by whom, the old parochial church of Lanark, now in ruins, which stands about a quarter of a mile to the S. E. of the town, was erected. It has been an elegant Gothic building of hewn stone, divided in the middle, from one end to the other, by a wall supported upon pillars, forming 5 or 6 fine arches: and around it, is the burial ground and cemetery of the town and parish. This church appears from Blind Harry's History of Sir William Wallace, to have been the only church of the town in his days. Thus *ad ann.* 1297, he makes mention of Wallace passing

"On from the kirk that was *without the town.*"

There is a charter, noted in the general Index of charters, in the Signet office, "Willielmo Clerkson Capellano mo-" derno ad altare gloriosissimæ Virginis Mariæ, infra " ecclesiam parochialem de Lanark." Granted by James iv. and dated at Lanark 18th October 1500.

The monastery of Franciscans, or Grey Friars, founded here by Robert I. in 1314, was situated to the West of the present parochial church. In the burial ground belonging to it, still called the Friar's yards, there lately existed a beautiful conical hill or *tumulus*, which has been recently taken

Lanark, anno 1197; and there are still in its neighbourhood places called *Kingsons know*, *Kingsons stane*, and *Kingsons moss*, which favour the tradition of its having been a royal residence. That it belonged to the crown, appears from the negotiation between John Baliol and Philip of France in 1298, where Philip agrees to give his niece, the eldest daughter of the Duke of Anjou, in marriage to the son and heir of Baliol: and in security of the lady's jointure, which was 1500l. sterling a year, Baliol mortgaged his estates in France, and some of the crown lands in Scotland, viz. the Castle and Castellany of Lanark, Kadzow, Maulsley, &c. This castle was frequently in the hands of the English during the 13th century, and I have seen several coins of the first Edward that were found here. A bowling green is now erected upon the site of the Castle.

taken down on building the new Inn, in which a great number of human bones was discovered, particularly a human scull of a remarkable large size.

A general chapter of all the Grey-Friars of the kingdom was held at this monastery 11th July 1490; where the Wardens capitulary being assembled, they confirmed an indenture made between the Lady Beatrice Douglas, Countess of Errol, and the Grey-Friars of Dundee, and ordered it to be put in execution.*

There was also in Lanark, a chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas, but where situated I do not know. Mention is made of it in a charter granted by James IV. "Stephano Lockhart, de loco de Clydesholme, et de cymba super aquam de Clyde, mortificat. Capellano ad altare Sanctae Katharinae fundat. in capella Sti. Nicolai de Lanark," dated 7th March 1491.

About half a mile to the Eastward of the town are the ruins of the Hospital of St. Leonard's, probably founded by Robert I. In 1393, Sir John Dalzell, a predecessor of the Earl of Carnwath, obtained from Robert III. to himself in liferent, and to Walter Dalzell his son in fee, the whole revenue belonging to St. Leonard's hospital within the burgh of Lanark, upon condition that he and his heirs

* The purport of the Indenture, which is dated in 1482, is as follows: In the year preceding the date of the indenture, provisions being very dear, the Grey friars of Dundee not having wherewithall to maintain themselves, were obliged to pledge their books, cups and utensils. The Countess commiserating them, gave them 100 l. Scots or £. 8:6:8 Sterling to support them in their extremities, and to enable them to repair their monastery; and in return the Friars obliged themselves and their successors to celebrate daily at the great altar a mass, *submissa voce*, *vel cum nota*, which mass was called *missa Domini* pro anima dictae Beatricis (Comitissæ,) ac pro animabus Willielmi, olim sponsi sui, et Willielmi com. de Errol. fil. ejus, &c. and if the Countess should, as she designed, build an altar within the church of the three kings at Cullen, then the mass should be said at that altar, &c.

heirs ſhall provide a qualified person to celebrate 3 maſses once every seven years for the salvation of Robert III. Anabella his Queen, and all their children *for ever*. The ruins of this hospital have lately been dug up and plowed. Some human bones, carved stones, and an urn, was discovered among them. The Hospital lands now belong to the Burrow, and are held by them of the family of Carnwath, for payment of 20 merks annually, which, by the charter, is declared to be for the use of the poor.

Agriculture. The land rises from the town in a gentle ascent to the East, and consists of a light dry soil, upon a gravelly bottom, with a few acres of moſs in the common which lyes to the East of the town. There is a considerable declivity from the town upon the South, West and North, to the rivers of Clyde and Mouſs, and an acclivity from those rivers. The soil here is partly loam upon a rocky bottom, and partly clay.

The Burrow lands consist of above 600 acres of fine rich loam, exclusive of the common. These are in general the property of the inhabitants of the burgh, few of whom poſseſs more than 2 or 3 acres, are mostly uninclosed, and when rented, generally yield from 2 l. to 3 l. the acre. Burrow acres sell at from 50 l. to 70 l. the acre. Preceding the year 1750, the burrow acres were kept in constant tillage, under a rotation of bear, oats and pease; each burgeſs kept one or two cows, and some of them a horse or two, which pastured promiscuously upon the common in summer, and upon the burrow croft stubble in winter. Since that period, potatoes have been introduced instead of the pease crop, and have been planted

planted in great quantities, being reckoned a more beneficial crop than pease. They are generally planted, about 4 bolls to an acre, with a dibber; and are three or four times hand-hoed during the summer. Each acre produces from 60 to 100 bolls Linlithgow barley measure, without dung, which is here seldom or never applied to the potatoe crop, as they are found to be much drier, and supposed more wholesome without it. Many people however have observed that the repeated culture of potatoes is injurious to the soil: and that the burrow lands do not now bear such quantities of good oats and barley as formerly.

Some time ago winter herding upon the common was adopted here, and since that happy period, clover and rye-grafs have been introduced in considerable quantities, and the inhabitants now find it more for their advantage to teather their cows upon their grafs fields than to send them to the common. An acre of sown teathering grafs has been known to let as high as 5l.

The lands of the out pariſh, till within these 30 years, were generally let in small farms for 19 years, the rents paid in victual, and the labour performed by the tenant and his own family. The mode of agriculture was that of keeping a few acres adjoining to their houses in constant tillage, upon which all the dung of the farm was laid; and the outfields were kept alternately for three years in oats, and three years in pasture. Each farm kept 4 horses, and a few milk cows, the produce of which was entirely consumed in the family; a few colts and young cows were also reared, the sale of which furniſhed the farmer with what little money was needed.

Since that period, the victual rents have been aboliſhed, and a spirit of industry and improvement has diffused itself over the pariſh. About 20 years ago, a few farms were

were let in tack for 38 years, with some little encouragement towards inclosing: Some of these have been inclosed partly with stone fences, and partly with ditch and hedge, and kept in a fencible condition. Dung is now applied to the outfields, and a regular rotation of crops carried on over all the farm. The most approved rotation seems to be oats from lea; a green crop of pease, turnips, or potatoes; barley sown with grafs seeds; two crops of hay, and three in pasture. By this mode the dung is equally distributed over all the farm, and the land kept in good condition, being dunged once in eight years.

Some years ago, a considerable quantity of oat-meal was yearly carried from this parifh to the Glasgow market; but now, since the introduction of cotton manufactures, it is all consumed at home; and frequently Irifh meal is sent up from Glasgow to supply the demand at the cotton mills; nor is this parifh any longer able to maintain itself. Oat-meal sells generally at a penny a-peck higher than either at Edinburgh or Glasgow; a circumstance that ought to encourage the agriculture of the parifh, and stimulate proprietors in this and the neighbouring parifhes, to bring their waste and moor grounds under cultivation.

The Scotch plough drawn by 3 or 4 horses; the common harrow of 4 bulls and 20 iron teeth; the roller, and single horse carts, are the most general implements of husbandry here. A few light ploughs, made in the parifh upon *Small's* model, are also in use; and two harrows of 3 bulls each, with long teeth joined together by a hinge in the middle, and two chains at the end, are used with effect,

fect, in reducing rough land. They likewise use two light harrows for grafs seeds. Mr Honyman employs two oxen and two horses in breaking up his moor grounds; but no oxen are used any where else in the pariſh, excepting at Bonniton, although the saving of oats ought greatly to encourage them in a pariſh where oatmeal gives so high a price.

Lime is in pretty general use as a manure*; where it has not been too frequently applied, it produces fine crops; but where the land has been often limed, it is found to succeed best when made up into compost dunghills, and when led out in harvest and laid upon lea grounds, it is attended with great advantage. There is some very good marle in the estate of Bonniton, but at present it is not dug out for sale.

There is very little wheat sown in the pariſh, either owing to the want of a flour mill, the scarcity of inclosures, or the high situation of the district. Some years ago, several acres were annually sown with flax, which yielded from 24 to 40 stones per acre; but the trouble attending the different operations, and the distance from watering places, prevent it from being sown in quantities; so that the general crops in use are barley, oats, potatoes, pease, and rye grafs and clover.

Turnips, though a most profitable crop, are by no means in common use. When the old crofts are laid out in pasture for milk cows, great quantities of butter and cheese are made; and the produce of each cow, under proper management, yields from 4 l. to 6 l. sterling annually.

Oats and pease are sown from the first of March to the middle of April, potatoes from the middle of April

* The price of a full heaped kiln of lime is 36 ſhillings; and it generally yields from 9 to 12 single horse carts of ſhells.

pril to the second week of May, and barley from the first to the end of May. In common seasons, harvest begins about the first of September, and ends about the middle of October. Even in the year 1782, there was little or none to cut down after the first of November, and the crop for the most part was got in. Harvest 1792 was almost equally late, and the crop as unproductive. The great rains prevented the corns from ripening, occasioned their running to straw and lodging, by which the grain did not fill; and it was no uncommon thing to send two bolls of oats to the mill, and get only one boll of meal in return, although in ordinary seasons and in ordinary land we have generally boll for boll.*

Climate and Diseases. This parish, from its high, dry, and airy situation, is perhaps as healthy a one as in Scotland. Being situated in the centre of the island, it is equally free from the Eastern fogs and the violence of the Western rains, so that the air is always pure and clear. The climate, although drier than about Glasgow, or even Hamilton, is certainly somewhat wetter than about Edinburgh, but is more than compensated by the absence of the Eastern fogs, so disagreeable in the neighbourhood of that city. Spring droughts frequently retard the crops very considerably, and sometimes spring frosts. Heavy rains in July and August, which are pretty common here, have a similar effect in keeping back the harvest; but in general the crops are earlier than in the neighbouring

* All plants and vegetables common to Scotland are to be found here. The sycamore, *vulgo* the plane tree, seems here to be indigenous, and grows among the natural woods, as do the holly and barberry. There are few or no sheep kept in this parish.

bouring pariſhes, and even more so than those lying much lower and farther down the Clyde.

In Autumn fevers and fluxes are pretty frequent, which have been imputed to living too much upon potatoes; but there is no disease peculiar to the pariſh. The inhabitants are in general stout and healthy, and it is no uncommon thing to meet with people walking about, nay even working, at the age of 80. Two or three have died, within these few years, aged above 90; one of them, a blacksmith, died at the age of 97; but I do not at present recollect of any person who ever reached his hundredth year.

Natural Curiosities, and Romantic Scenery. This pariſh contains as much curious, romantic, and varied scenery, as any in Scotland. The falls of Clyde principally interest the stranger, and we ſhall begin with the uppermost one, although to come at it, we are obliged to paſs the second fall, or Corra Lin. The uppermost one is somewhat above 2½ miles from Lanark, and from the estate in which it is situated is called the Bonniton Fall or Lin.* From Bonniton house, a very neat and elegant modern building, you arrive at the Lin, by a most romantic walk along the Clyde, leaving the pavilion and Corra Lin upon your right hand. At some little distance from the fall, the walk, leading to a rock that juts out and overhangs the river, brings you all at once within sight of this beautiful sheet of water; but no stranger rests satisfied with this view; he still preſses onwards along the walk, till from the rock immediately above the Lin, he sees the whole

* The word *Lin* has not hitherto been explained by any writer. It is no other than the Gaelic word *Leum*, i. e. leap or fall, differently spelt and pronounced.

whole body of the river precipitate itself into the chasm below. The rock over which it falls is upwards of 12 feet of perpendicular height, from which the Clyde makes one precipitate tumble, or leap, into a hollow den; whence some of it again recoils in froth, and smoking mist. Above, the river exhibits a broad, expanded, and placid appearance, beautifully environed with plantations of forest trees. This appearance is suddenly changed at the fall: and, below it, the river is narrow, contracted, and angrily boils and thunders, among rocks and precipices.

The same beautiful and romantic walk conducts you back again, along the precipice that overhangs the river, both sides of which are environed by mural rocks, equidistant and regular, forming, as Mr Pennant expreſses it, a "*stupenduous natural masonry;*" from whose crevices choughs, daws and other wild birds, are inceſsantly springing. You descend along the river for about half a mile, till you arrive at the *Corra Lin*, so called from an old castle and estate upon the opposite bank. The old castle of Corra, overhanging a high rock that overlooks the fall, with Corra house, and the rocky and woody banks of the Clyde, form of themselves a beautiful and grand *coup d'oeil*; but nothing can equal the striking and stupenduous appearance of the fall itself, which when viewed from any of the different seats placed here and there along the walks, must fill every unaccustomed beholder with awe and astoniſhment. The tremenduous rocks around, the old castle upon the opposite bank, a corn mill in the rock below, the furious and impatient stream foaming over the rock, the horrid chasm and abyſs underneath your feet, heightened by the hollow murmur of the water and the screams of wild birds, form at once a spectacle both

both tremenduous and pleasing. A summer-house or pavillion is situated over a high rocky bank, that overlooks the Lin, built by Sir James Carmichael of Bonniton in 1708. From its uppermost room it affords a very striking prospect of the fall, for all at once, on throwing your eyes towards a mirror, on the opposite side of the room from the fall, you see the whole tremendous cataract pouring as it were upon your head. The Corra Lin, by a late measurement, is found to be 84 feet in height. The river does not ruſh over in one uniform ſheet like the Bonniton Lin, but in three different, though almost imperceptible, precipitate leaps. On the southern bank, and when the sun ſhines, a rainbow is perpetually seen forming itself upon the mist and fogs, arising from the violent daſhing of the waters.

The next curiosity, on descending the Clyde, that attracts the stranger, is New Lanark, or the cotton mills. The situation of this village is at the western extremity of the Bonniton ground in a low den, and within view of another beautiful and romantic fall called Dundaff Lin, signifying in Gaelic *black castle leap*; and no doubt formerly some fortreſs has been situated hereabouts, although no traces now remain, excepting in tradition; which still points out a rock called Wallace's Chair, where that patriot is said to have concealed himself from the Engliſh. This fall is about 3 or 4 feet high, and trouts have been observed to ſpring up and gain the top of it with ease. This fall, the village, four lofty cotton mills, and their busy inhabitants, together with the wild and woody scenery around, must attract the notice of every stranger. Below these are the romantic rocks and woods of Braxfield, the seat of the present Lord Justice Clerk, who influenced alone by the good of his country, very frankly

frankly feued the site of the village and cotton mills to the benevolent Mr David Dale, at a very moderate feu-duty.

The next fall of consequence is the Stonebyres Lin, situated about 2½ miles below the Corra Lin. It is so called from the neighbouring estate of Stonebyres, belonging to Daniel Vere Esq; but the grounds adjacent to the fall, on both sides of the river, have lately been feued or purchased by Mr Dale. This cataract, which is about eighty feet in height, is the *ne plus ultra* of the salmon, as none can posibly get above it, although their endeavours, in the spawning season, are incesant and amusing. It is equally romantic with the others; and like the Corra Lin, has three distinct, but almost precipitate falls. Wild rugged rocks are equally visible here, and they are equally fringed with wood; the trees however are by no means so tall and stately, being composed of coppice wood. Salmon, pars (samlets,) horse muscle, or the pearl oyster, though numerous below, are never seen above this fall.

The next piece of natural curiosity is Cartlane Craigs, upon the river Mouss, which enters Clyde about a mile below the town of Lanark. This is a curious and romantic den, about a quarter of a mile in length, bounded on either side by a reef of lofty precipitous and rugged rocks, which are fringed with coppice wood on the north side, and with coppice wood and thriving plantations on the south. The rocky bank on the north side is about 400 feet in height, and it is not much lower upon the south side. Both banks are finely varied with the different appearances of rock, wood and precipice. At the bottom runs the river Mouss, which scarcely leaves room for the lonely traveller to traverse the den; however, here the celebrated botanist, Mr Lightfoot, clambered

clambered in search of plants, and discovered some rare and uncommon ones, as may be seen in his *Flora Scotica*. At every reach of the Mouſs, of which there are many, the scenery varies, and wherever you find a prominent rock upon the one side, you are sure to meet with a regular receſs on the other. Caverns in the rocks are here and there observable, but none of them worthy of any particular description. One, still called Wallace's cove, tradition tells us, was the hiding hole of that patriot. Another equally trifling, but which bears evident marks of the chiſsel, is said to have been the abode of a hermit in former times, but must have been a miserable habitation, hardly affording room to lye down in. Considerable veins of the *spatum ponderosum* run through these rocks; but no other mineral has hitherto been traced in this dreary den of foxes, badgers and wild birds. It is somewhat singular how the Mouſs, instead of following its direct course, by Baronald house, where the ground is lower and unobstructed by rocks, ſhould have penetrated the high hill of Cartlane, and formed a bed through solid rock. It seems presumable that this vast chasm has originally been formed by some earthquake, which, rending the rocks, allowed the water to paſs that way.

Lakes, orchards, and mineral springs. There is only one lake of any consequence in the pariſh, which is on the Bonniton estate, and upon which there is a bleachfield, particularly famous for bleaching threed. It is called *Lang Loch*, although hardly 500 feet in length; and contains both Pike and Perch.

There are no Orchards of any consequence excepting about Holmfoot, in the lower part of the pariſh. Small ones have been lately planted at Castlebank, and at Baronald in the

the neighbourhood of the town, which thrive tolerably well; but in general the fruit does not succeed so well in the higher parts of this parish, owing to the great elevation. Small fruit, however, such as gooseberries, yield considerable returns, and I have known some cultivators of them draw from 20 l. to 25 l. for a crop, independent of other vegetables growing among them. Wild fruits are here in great abundance, such as crab apples, hazel nuts, geens, bird-cherry called here hagberry, rasp-berries, Roebuck-berries, and strawberries, &c. The fruit of the bird-cherry, (*prunus padus*), or the bark in winter, is an excellent astringent, and a specific in Diarrhœas and fluxes. The disease common to cows in some pastures, called the *moor-ill*, is cured by it, of which I have been assured by an excellent surgeon now deceased. The *Rubus Saxatilis*, and *Rubus chamæmorus*, are to be found along the rocks of Cleghorn wood, and at Bonniton, by the falls.

There are no mineral waters in the parish other than the common chalybeate springs, which are found almost every where in Scotland.

Roads, Bridges, and Improvements, already made or proposed. The distance to Edinburgh is about 30 miles; and a most excellent turnpike road was made some years ago to that metropolis.

The present road to Glasgow, which is 24 miles from Lanark, is in bad repair; and on account of the great declivity to the water of Mouss and acclivity from it, it has been found expedient to change the tract of the road altogether; and instead of crossing the Mouss, a new one is finishing, that crosses the Clyde at the old bridge of Lanark, and from thence runs along the southern banks of

of that river by Dalserf and Hamilton to Glasgow. This road, which leads through woods and orchards, and keeps the Clyde pretty generally in view, bids fair to be the most beautiful one in Scotland; and were it continued southerly as once proposed, by the Howgate mouth to Carlisle, (thereby ſhortening the present road from Glasgow to that place,) it would be of considerable advantage to Lanark, as at present there is no thorough-fare through Lanark to any town in Britain. It will however be matter of regret, if some attention is not also paid to the old road by Carluke, as it is the ordinary one to coal and lime.

There are two bridges over the Clyde in the pariſh. The old bridge of Lanark, consisting of 3 arches, was built in the end of last century, and is at present strong and sufficient; but from the late great weight of earth laid upon the abuttment next the town, it is somewhat doubtful whether it may not be hurt by it. The other bridge is the Hyndford bridge on the high road from Lanark, and from Edinburgh to Ayr. This bridge, consisting of 5 arches, was built a few years ago, under the direction of Mr Steven, and for elegance and simplicity may challenge any bridge of its size in Scotland. There are three bridges over the Mouſs, Cleghorn bridge, Lockhart-ford bridge, on the Carluke road; and Mouſs-mill bridge.

If ever the proposed canal ſhould take place between Edinburgh and Glasgow, and ſhould the people of Ayrſhire think of a canal to join it, the southerly tract of the Glasgow and Edinburgh canal, pointed out by *Lucius* in the Edinburgh Herald, would be the most accommodating one towards such junction. The Glasgow canal would enter the pariſh from Carluke; and paſsing close on by Cleghorn, might there be joined by the branch from

from Ayr, which could be carried acroſs the Clyde a little above Hyndford bridge, and from thence by Douglas to Ayr. This would not only accommodate the thriving manufactures of Lanark, and the Cleugh iron works, but, as it would paſs over grounds containing coal, lime-stone and iron-stone, would greatly promote agriculture and manufactures of every kind; besides the more general advantage arising from the expansion of trade from sea to sea.

Rental and heritors. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 4217 : 19 : 10 Scots, and the real rent upwards of L. 3000 Sterling. The principal heritors are Charles Wiſhart Lockhart, of Lee Esq; Allan Lockhart of Cleghorn, esq. Lady Roſs Baillie, and the honourable George Baillie of Jervis-wood. Besides those named, there are six or seven leſser heritors, 55 small ones in the out pariſh, and 98 proprietors of burrow lands. There are only about 3 or 4 heritors that are non residents.

Population. The population of the pariſh, as returned to Dr Webster in 1755, amounted to 2294 souls. On May 15th 1792, the number of examinable persons, i. e. all above seven years of age, by the late incumbent's examination roll, amounted to 2693, exclusive of New Lanark, or the cotton mills, to which when we add one fifth more for the children under 7 years of age, we ſhall have the sum total of 3231; so that the population of the pariſh including New Lanark will stand as under.

In

In the town of Lanark, and burgh lands,	2260
In the village of New Lanark,	1519
In the country,	972
Total No. of souls,	4751
Increase since the year 1755, or rather since 1785, the aera of the Cotton works,	2456

The medium of births in the parish for 20 years preceeding the year 1786, amounts to 68, and the medium for 10 years back from 1786, to 73. Marriages since the erection of the Cotton mills have greatly encreased, so that from being formerly at a medium about 19 annually, they are now doubled. Of the deaths in the parish, there seems to be no regular record kept: besides the kirk session, who ought alone to have the care of the mort-cloths, there is one kept for the country heritors of the Western parts of the parish, another kept for the Barrony of Lee, another by the deacons of crafts, and of late the Guildry has deemed it necessary to keep one.

Burgh.—Lanark is an ancient royal burgh erected by Alexander I. whose charter, together with the after ones of Robert I. and James V. are confirmed by Charles I. 20th February 1632. Lanark is clafsed with Linlithgow Selkirk and Pebles, in sending a representative to Parliament. The electors consist of the Common-council and Deacons of Crafts. The number of counsellors are 17, including the Provost, two Bailies and Dean of Guild, and there are 7 Deacons of Crafts. The Crafts-men are the Smiths, Shoemakers, Wrights, Taylors, Weavers, Dyers, and Skinners. The Deacons form a separate body, called the Deacon's seat; and have no voice in council, except

except in the election of Provost, Bailies, Dean of Guild, and delegate for electing a member of Parliament.

The number of inhabitants amount to 2260; among whom are the following handicraftsmen, exclusive of journeymen and apprentices:

Smiths,	11	Stockingmakers,	60
Shoemakers,	80	Watchmakers,	2
Masons and Wrights,	30	Bakers,	5
Taylors,	11	Butchers,	4
Weavers,	60	Gardiners,	5
Dyers,	2	Tanners,	1
Skinners,	1		

I do not know the exact number of Merchants or Shopkeepers, but there are four Surgeons, seven Attornies, or writers, and 50 Innkeepers or publicans!

The town is delightfully situated upon the slope of a rising ground, 292 feet above the level of the Clyde, and 656 feet 5 inches, above the quay at the New bridge of Glasgow. There are in it, five principal streets, besides lanes and closes. The houses formerly were almost all of them covered with turf and straw, and the rooms without ceilings. Since the erection of the Cotton works, many houses have been covered with slate, and ceilings are now pretty generally in use. In ſhort the town has, within these two or three years, put on a decent appearance. A neat additional Inn has lately been built, which was much needed, as the resort of strangers to see the falls of Clyde, the Cotton works, &c. is very considerable.

There is here a very good meal-market; and within these two years, a neat market for butcher meat has been erected, together with a slaughter house at some considerable distance from it. The only other market requisite

site for the inhabitants, would be one for garden stuffs, which might also answer for potatoes, fish and salt. At present garden stuffs are only to be bought at the gardens. As to fish, were a particular market once established, such as are peculiar to the place, as salmon, trouts, pikes, perches, and pars, would more readily be exposed to sale; besides it would encourage the sale of herrings and other fish from Glasgow, &c.

Church. The church stands in the middle of the town; is a tolerable neat modern building; but no great compliment can be paid to its steeple. The steeple contains 2 bells, the largest has 3 different dates put upon it at the different refoundings; the oldest date is 1110. The church, tho' large, is rather inadequate to the encreasing number of the inhabitants, which circumstance in part gave rise to the building of a seceding meeting-house within these two or three years. This meeting-house has from 90 to 100 communicants, and the examinable persons will amount to one fifth more. The seceders here are a very orderly set of men; and they and their pastor posseſs more solid religion and good sense, than to listen to the wild schemes of anarchy and disorder, said to be inculcated by some of their sect, in imitation of the atheists of a neighbouring kingdom.

School. The grammar school here has always been in great repute; and many gentlemen at the head of the learned professions have had their education at it. The school has two established teachers; and English, Latin and Greek are taught in the same room. The Rector's salary is L 16: 13 : 4: and the second master's is L 8. The scholars are from 70 to 80. The fees for English are, 1 s. 6 d. per quarter, and for Latin 2s. 6d. The present school-house, consisting of two stories, and slated,

was

was built from the munificence of the late William Smellie, M. D. well known from his publications on the obstetric art, who bequeathed L. 200 towards rebuilding the school-house, and also left to it his library of books, which are kept in the room immediately above the school-room.

Manufactures. There is a considerable manufactory of stockings here, between 75 and 80 stocking frames, being constantly employed. The workmen's wages in all are about L. 35 weekly. This business has increased considerably within these 7 or 8 years. About 20 years ago, there were no more than 5 or 6 frames in the town.

Previous to the American War, a very great quantity of shoes was manufactured here for exportation, and sent to Glasgow weekly, but since that period the demand is considerably decreased.

Fairs. There are at Lanark 7 fairs in the year, all of them well frequented. Lammas fair is an excellent market for lambs and young colts. This fair some time ago supplied the Highlands with lambs and sheep; but of late the demand from that country is considerably lessened. Martinmas fair is a good market for black cattle, lint, yarn, and coarse linnen.

History. About *anno* 978, Buchanan informs us that Kenneth II. held an assembly, or parliament, being the first mentioned in history, at Lanark; a circumstance about which Fordun, our oldest author now extant, is silent.

Anno 1244, Fordun tells us that Lanark among some other towns was burnt to the ground, but does not mention the circumstances.

Anno

Anno 1297, the same author adds, that Sir William Wallace began here his first great military exploit by defeating the English sherriff of Lanarkshire, *William de Hesliope*, and putting him to death in this town. Blind Harry relates this event at greater length, affixing the same date to it. He tells us Wallace having married a lady of the name of Braidfoot, the heirefs of Lammington, lived with her privately at Lanark; that while there, a scuffle ensued in the street between Wallace and a few friends, and a body of Englishmen. Wallace being overpowered, fled first to his own house and from thence made his escape to Cartlane Craigs. The sherriff *Hesilrig*, or as Fordun calls him Hesliope, seized upon his wife and put her to death. To revenge which, Wallace gathers a few friends together, attacks Hesilrig in the night, and kills him and 240 Englishmen. Tradition tells us, that the house where Wallace resided was at the head of the Castlegate opposite the church, where a new house has lately been erected. It also acquaints us that a private vaulted archway led from this house to Cartlane Craigs, but seemingly without the smallest probability.

Anno 1310 Bruce, finally recovered Lanark from the Engliſh.

By act of parliament 20 June 1617, anent weights and measures, the care of the weights was committed to the burgh of Lanark; "In respect that the keeping and outgiving of the weights of old to the burrows and others, &c. was committed to the burgh of Lanark." Standard weights were transmitted to Lanark from London at the union, but whether they exist at present or not is unknown*.

Ancient

* The price of provisions is as follows. Oat meal and grain in general sells somewhat higher here than in the Edinburgh or Glasgow market.

Oats

Ancient families and great men. The families of Lee and Cleghorn are the most ancient in the pariſh. Sir William Lockhart of Lee, the great statesman and general under the protector, and Charles II, and who was also Lord Justice Clerk, was born in this pariſh, and had his first rudiments of education in Lanark school. Dr William Smellie author of the treatise on midwifery, though born in the neighbouring pariſh of Lesmahago was educated here. The present Lord Justice clerk, (Robert M'Queen of Braxfield,) so justly esteemed for his abilities as a lawer and a judge, was born in the pariſh, and had his education at Lanark school. The late learned and ingenious general Roy, received also part of his education here, and was born in the neighbouring praiſh of Carluke. William Lithgow the noted traveller was born in the pariſh, died in it, and is buried in the church yard of Lanark, though no vestige of his tomb can now be traced.

Oat meal is for the most part 1d. a peck higher than at Edinburgh. Beef and mutton sells from 3d. ½ to 4d. ½ the pound Engliſh; veal from 4d. to 6d. lamb 5d. hens from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. butter from 8d. ½ to 10d. and eggs from 4d. to 7d the dozen. There are few swine kept in the pariſh, although very profitable; and are seldom seen in the markets. Sweet milk is 2d a Scotch pint, and churned milk has been lately raised to ¾ per pint. No salmon can get above the Stonebyres fall, and are seldom brought to market. Trouts are to be had almost every day, and are pretty reasonable. And vegetables are to be had at the gardens very reasonable. The flour baked here into bread comes all from Edinburgh or Glasgow, which greatly enhances the price of bread: About 30 years ago, potatoes were 2d a peck, eggs 1½ the dozen, and butter 3½ the pound.

The rate of labour is as follows. Masons wages are from 20d. to 2s. carpenters 1s. 6d. day labourers from 1s. to 1s. 2d. Taylors 8d. and their diet, when in the employers house, a custom now almost discontinued: plowmen get from 8l. to 10l. annually with maintainance, or L14. 10, and a free house and garden without it. Maid servants from 3l. to 4l. a year.

Cottan Mills, and Village of New Lanark. New Lanark, where the cotton mills are situated, is about a ſhort mile from Lanark; and is the only village in the pariſh. It is entirely the creation of the enterprizing and well known Mr David Dale; and as it originated with the erection of the first cotton mill, we ſhall begin our account with the mills.

Mills. In 1784, Mr Dale feued the site of the Mills and village of New Lanark, from the present Lord Juſtice Clerk, with some few acres of ground adjoining. This spot of ground was at that period almost a mere moraſs, situated in a hollow den, and of difficult acceſs. Its only recommendation was the very powerful command of water, that the Clyde could be made to afford it; in other respects, the distance from Glasgow and badneſs of the roads were rather unfavourable.

The first mill was begun in April 1785, and a subteraneous paſsage of near 100 yards in length, was also formed through a rocky hill for the purpose of an aqueduct to it*. In Summer 1788, a second one was built, and was nearly roofed in, when on the 9th of October, that year, the first one was totally consumed by accidental fire, but was again rebuilt and finiſhed in 1789. The proprietor has since

* In September 1785, while digging the open part of this aqueduct, there was found the skeleton of the *Bison Scoticus* or Urus, described by Cæsar Lib vi. which has been extinct in Scotland for above 300 years. The cores or flints of the horns are still preserved, one in the college of Glasgow: and another in my poſsession; the last though not entire is 2 feet in length, and next the head measures above 15 inches in circumference

since erected other two, all of which are meant to be driven by one and the same aqueduct.

In march 1786, the spinning commenced, and notwithstanding of the severe check by the total destruction of the first mill, the manufactory has been in a constant progresfive state of advancement. In March 1791, from an accurate account then taken, it appears there were 981 persons employed at the mills whereas there are now (November 1793) 1334.

As already said, there are four houses built for the purposes of spinning, the dimensions of which are as under.

	f. long,	f. wide,	f. high,
The first built one is	154	27	60
The second,	154	27	60
The third,	130	30	60
The fourth,	156	33	70

The second is the only one as yet completely filled, and contains about 6,000 spindles. The first one which was burned, and now rebuilt has only at present 4500 spindles. In the third mill, a considerable number of patent jennies are now going bywater, being the first of the kind in Great Britain: This invention, and for which, a patent, has lately been obtained, we owe to the genius and spirited industry of Mr William Kelly of New Lanark *. There are about

* This gentleman has also lately discovered a new method of erecting the great *gear* or large machinery of cotton mills, so as to require one fourth of less water than commonly needed: and which is also applicable to corn mills. This mode is not only less expensive but requires less trouble than the old one. It also has the benevolent tendency of preserving the lives of children and others that may be entangled by the drum or shaft. He has been honoured with the thanks of the Board of Trustees, with whom he has deposited a model of his improvements.

about 55 common jennies also at work in this mill. The 4th Mill is about to be filled in the same way; at present it is occupied as store rooms for cotton wool, as work shops for the different tradesmen employed; and as a boarding house for 275 children, who have no parents here, and who get their maintenance, education and cloathing for their work.

Below is a state of the numbers at present employed, distinguishing their different employments, &c.

Masons, Carpenters, and labourers, employed in erecting buildings, for 7 years past. 90

Mechanics employed in making, and repairing Machinary viz.

Smiths,	20	Turners,	10	
Clockmakers,	12	Founders,	2	
Mill-wrights,	9	Hammermen and Hag-		
Joiners,	19	men, &c.	15	
				87

Persons employed in carrying on the manufactory viz. in cleaning cotton, carding, drawing, roving, winding, spinning, and reeling viz.

Men,	145	Boys,	376	
Women,	217	Girls,	419	
				1157

Total number employed, 1334

Of these last, 32 men, 71 women, 52 boys, and 51 girls, reside in the burgh of Lanark, all the rest live at New Lanark. 109 of the women work at picking cotton in ther own houses, and for the most part have families, some of whom are employed at the mills.

The

The ages of the young people employed are as follow.

Of 6 years of age,	5	Of 12 years of age,	99
Of 7	33	Of 13	92
Of 8	71	Of 14	71
Of 9	95	Of 15	68
Of 10	93	Of 16	69
Of 11	64	Of 17	35

The proprietor likewise employs in the parish and neighbourhood 324 persons in weaving winding &c.

The quantity of Cotton wool manufactured weekly amounts at an average to 6,000 libs. The yarn is partly manufactured into cloth here by the weavers above mentioned, and others in the proprietors employ; and partly sold to the manufacturers in Glasgow

With regard to the health of the work people, it is sufficient to say that of all the children provided with meat and clothing by the proprietor amounting this and last year, to 275; and for 7 years back, never fewer than 80, only 5 have died during the period of seven years: in mentioning so extraordinary a fact, it may perhaps be expected that something should be said of their diet and treatment.

The former consists of oatmeal porridge, with milk in summer or sowens, i. e. oat-meal flummery, with milk in winter twice a day, as much as they can take, barley broth for dinner made with good fresh beef every day; and as much beef is boiled as will allow 7 ounces English a piece each day to one half of the children, the other half get cheese and bread after their broth, so that they dine alternately upon cheese and butchermeat, with barley bread or potatoes; and now and then in the proper season they have a dinner of herrings and potatoes. They as well as the others, begin work at six in the morning,

morning, are allowed half an hour to breakfast, an hour to dinner, and quit work at 7 at night; after which they attend the school at the expence of the proprietor till 9. They sleep in well aired rooms, three in a bed; and proper care is taken to remove those under any disease to seperate appartments.

The great improvement arising from Mr Kelly's invention of Jennies going by water, reduces very considerably the number of men that formerly were neceſsary in working the common Jennies. Such being the case, widows with large families are much wanted here, as children can manage the patent Jennies with great ease, while their mothers are employed in other branches.

Great attention is paid to the morals of children and others at these mills, of which the late incumbent was perfectly sensible. Large manufactories have sometimes been considered in another light, but Mr Dale and all concerned, must here have the voice of the public to the contrary. Marriages have greatly increased in the pariſh since their erection, as the benefits arising from a family are obvious. Indeed the anxiety of the proprietor to have proper teachers and instructers for children will ever redound to his honour.

New Lanark. Has been entirely built by the propritor of the mills for the accomodation of his work people and the following is a state of its population at present:

	Males	*Females*
Married persons.	181	184
Widows and widowers.	4	34
		Unmarried

Unmarried persons above 22 year of age		15	22
Between	21 and 22	1	3
	20 and 21	2	3
	19 and 20	14	21
	18 and 19	10	11
	17 and 18	15	18
	16 and 17	17	27
	15 and 16	30	29
	14 and 15	32	36
	13 and 14	27	36
	12 and 13	29	30
	11 and 12	51	47
	10 and 11	31	31
	9 and 10	42	54
	8 and 9	34	40
	7 and 8	40	37
	6 and 7	39	32
	5 and 6	20	16
	4 and 5	12	18
	3 and 4	17	10
	2 and 3	9	22
	1 and 2	12	14
Between ½year old and 1.		11	12
under ½year old.		19	18
	total.	714	805

total No. of souls 1519

Among thes are 54 Jenny spinners,
45 Labourers,
7 Clockmakers,
5 Weavers,
3 Schoolmasters,

11 Smiths,	3 Shoemakers,
10 Wrights,	3 Turners, &
8 Taylors,	2 Merchants,
7 masons,	

A great proportion of the inhabitants are Highlanders mostly from Caithneſs Inverneſs and Argyleſhires. Few of those from the west understand Engliſh. In 1791 a veſsel carrying emigrants from the isle of Sky to North America, was driven by streſs of weather into Greenock; about 200 were put aſhore in a very destitute situation. Mr Dale whose humanity is ever awake offered them immediate employment, which the greater bulk of them accepted: And soon after with a view to prevent farther emigration to America he notified, to the people of Argyleſhire and the isles, the encouragement given to families at the cottonmills; and undertook to provide houses for 200 families in the course of the 1792. these were all finiſhed last summer, (1793) and a considerable number of Highlanders have of late come to reside at New Lanark.

Families from any quarter poſseſsed of a good moral character, and having three children fit for work, above nine years of age, are received,—supplied with a house at a moderate rent, and the women and children provided with work. The children, both those fit for work and those who are too young for it, have the privilege of attending the school gratis, the former in the evenings the latter through the day. Three profeſsed teachers are paid by Mr Dale for this purpose, and also seven aſsistants who attend in the evenings, one of whom teaches writing. There is also a sunday school at which all the master's and aſsistants attend.

In New Lanark there is a ſmall congregational meeting-houſe for thoſe of the ſect commonly called Independents. The Highlanders have ſometimes, though rarely, been favoured with a ſermon in Gaelic, by preachers of the church of Scotland: and it has been for ſome time in contemplation, to erect a church for conſtant worſhip in that language, at leaſt for one half of the day. The Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge has been applied to for ſome aſſiſtance, which probably will be granted, ſeeing the want of public worſhip and inſtruction, among ſo great a body of people, muſt have a tendency to hurt the morals of the preſent, as well as to diſcourage future ſettlers from the Highlands, and of conſequence muſt promote emigration.

Before leaving this article of cotton mills, I cannot help noticing a circumſtance peculiar to ſuch manufactures, which may afford a uſeful hint to poor widows with families. In moſt other manufactures, a woman who has a family, and becomes a widow, is generally in a moſt helpleſs ſituation. Here the caſe is very different, for the greater number of children the woman has, ſhe lives ſo much the more comfortably; and upon ſuch account alone, ſhe is often a tempting object for a ſecond huſband. Indeed, at cotton mills, it often happens, that young children ſupport their aged parents by their induſtry.

Mr Dale has ſet apart, and incloſed a piece of ground cloſe by the village, for a burying place.

Character of the People, &c. The people are, in general, induſtrious, though not remarkably ſo. They are naturally generous, hoſpitable, and fond of ſtrangers, which induces them ſometimes to make free with the bottle; but drunkenneſs, among the better claſs of inhabitants, is of late rather unuſual. It is leſs ſo among the other inhabitants; but, upon the whole, they are a decent and orderly people; and

crimes are ſeldomer committed here, than in any other pariſh of equal population. The author knows of no native who has ever been tried for a capital crime. In ſhort, they are generally honeſt, decent, religious, and ſtrict in their attendance on divine worſhip. Perhaps, there may be one or two individuals, who, either from ignorance, or, from violence of temper, will not liſten to the cool voice of reaſon, who chime in with the ravings of the *Friends of the People*, as they call themſelves; but the reſt, although ſome may wiſh for a moderate reform, have too much religion and ſound ſenſe not to ſee, that thoſe people have neither experience nor knowledge in matters of that nature, and only graſp at ſeating themſelves in power upon the ruins of their country; nor are they ſo weak, as not to profit from the example of a neighbouring kingdom, where *Anarchy* ſits triumphant upon the *guillotine*, with *Murder* at her back, trampling upon law, liberty, and religion, and treading the rights of mankind under her feet.

Eccleſiaſtical State. The King is patron of the pariſh. Lord Douglas is titular of the teinds of the borough lands, and Mr Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath of the reſt of the pariſh. The church, being built in 1777, is in very good repair. The manſe and office houſes, being erected at the late incumbent's entry in 1757, are not in ſuch good order. The manſe, offices, and garden, cover about a rood of ground. The glebe is ſcrimply 4 acres; but the incumbent is entitled to the graſs of the church-yard, and to common paſturage in the moor.

The ſtipend payable at preſent is as under,

	B.	F.	P.	L.	
In meal,	87	1	2	$2\frac{2}{4}$	
In bear,	9	3	1	$2\frac{1}{4}$	
In money,	L. 493	3s.	10d.		Scotch,

which,

which, with L. 35 6s. 8d. Sterling of augmentation, obtained during the winter ſeſſion 1792, will, at the common converſion, amount in whole to about L. 90 Sterling.

Mr James Gray, the late incumbent, ſucceeded Mr John Orr and was tranſlated from Rothes to this pariſh in 1756. No miniſter ever conducted himſelf with greater propriety. He never meddled with borough politics, but attended only to the duties of religion; and his pious and exemplary conduct will long be rememberd by his pariſhioners. Mr WILLIAM MENZIES has of late obtained the preſentation, is agreeable to all the pariſh, and has been favoured with an unanimous call.

A very accurate and diſtinct record of births and marriages is kept by the ſeſſion clerk, commencing in 1648.

Poor. The poor's funds have been carefully and attentively kept, perhaps more ſo than was abſolutely neceſſary. When the funds for the poor are very conſiderable, they become in ſome degree an encouragement to idleneſs and diſſipation; beſides, people do not give alms for the uſe of after generations, but to ſupply the neceſſities of the preſent. It is true, the Seſſion may err in giving too much to the poor, yet ſurely objects will always occur, among induſtrious manufacturers and tradeſmen burdened with great families, where the beſtowing of a very ſmall pittance will not only benefit the receivers, but the whole pariſh, and even the nation at large

The number of town poor upon the ſeſſion roll amounts to 45, including 3 orphan children and a lunatic. The intereſt of 400l. the ſum amaſſed by the ſeſſion; the collections at the church doors; the rent of 1½ acre of land, with the fines from delinquents, and a conſiderable proportion of the fees for proclamation of banns, *i e.* marriages, have hitherto formed the fund for their ſupply.

The heritors of the landward part of the pariſh meet half yearly, and aſſeſs themſelves for the maintainance of their poor. The number of their poor at preſent amounts to 11; and the aſſeſſment, including clerk's ſalary, for laſt year, to about 27l. This mode of providing for the poor, in the landward pariſh, has been adopted ſince the year 1750. Dr Anderſon, the editor of the Bee, inveighs warmly againſt this mode of providing for the poor, alledging that it is contrary to law, and invariably followed by a gradual increaſe of the number of poor. Whatever it may be in other places, from the record of this charity, it does not appear that it has been the caſe in this pariſh. The lands belonging to St Leonard's hoſpital, formerly noticed, are under the adminiſtration of the magiſtrates, and yield, *communibus annis*, about 35l. yearly, divided among 40 poor perſons monthly. The different incorporations likewiſe divide ſome money quarterly among the families of their deceaſed brethren: 30l. Scotch are divided by the miniſter and magiſtrates, on the morning of the firſt day of the year, among the poor burgeſſes. This is a mortification by James Lord Carmichael in the year 1662. His lordſhip, in thoſe days, had his town reſidence in this burgh, and obſerving the better ſort of tradesmen and inhabitants, celebrating the new year's day with feaſting and merry making, he, from the benevolence of his diſpoſition, as tradition ſays, mortified (ſunk) a ſum of money, the intereſt of which is to be given to the poor, that they may likeways have it in their power to buy a *hot pint*, and partake in the general feſtivity.

*Miſcellaneous obſervations**. The inhabitants of the pariſh are ſomewhat above the middle ſize, ſtrong built, and of a hale

* A native of Lanark, one Robert Alexander, a wigmaker, and formerly a councillor and town treaſurer, has kept a regular regiſter of the weather, ſeaſons, and public occurrences within the burgh, from 1755 downwards.

hale complexion. Their dreſs is conſiderably altered within theſe 20 years. A blue or black bonnet is now a ſingularity; hats are in general uſe; and both ſexes appear at church, or at a ball, with almoſt as much elegance as the inhabitants of the capital. The dialect of the upper ward of Clydeſdale, as to pronounciation, is the ſame with that ſpoken in Edinburgh, differing materially from that of the middle and lower wards.

Two cuſtoms, almoſt peculiar to the burgh of Lanark, perhaps may here be noticed. The firſt is a gala kept by the boys of the grammar ſchool, beyond all memory, in regard to date, on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. They then parade the ſtreets with a palm, or its ſubſtitute, a large tree of the willow kind, *ſalix caprea*, in bloſſom, ornamented with daffodils, mezereon and box-tree. This day is called *Palm Saturday;* and the cuſtom is certainly a Popiſh relic of very ancient ſtanding. The other is the riding of the marches, which is done annually, upon the day after Whitſunday fair, by the magiſtrates and burgeſſes, called here the *landſmark* or

He is now about 78 years of age, and, notwithſtanding all his paſt ſervices, the only office he now can reach is that of pariſh beadle. His annals conſiſt of 5 or 6 M. S. octavo volumes; and although ſome of them are trifling, yet in general they are a curious and uſeful repoſitory.

An improvement, which may be followed with advantage in other places, took effect here about 30 years ago. A country fidler, but a man of penetration, having made ſome money, purchaſed about 3 or 4 acres of ground, of a dry gravelly ſoil, conſiſting moſtly of ſloping banks, which did not yield above 3l. 10s. altogether of yearly rent. Theſe grounds were ſituated at the bottom of the town, within 30 or 40 feet of a rivulet, which, paſſing through the town and butcher market, conveyed away a deal of manure, garbage, &c The new proprietor, conſcious of the advantages derivable from this ſource, was at a conſiderable expence in driving a mine through thoſe 30 or 40 feet of ground, (a high bank,) by which, in two or three years time he ſo enriched his grounds, as to draw 14l. annually of rent; and now 40l. Sterling a year has been refuſed for theſe very lands.

or langemark day, from the Saxon *langemark*. It is evidently of Saxon origin, and probably eſtabliſhed here in the reign of, or ſometime poſterior to Malcom I.

The manners of the inhabitants, as to diet and drink, are conſiderably changed within theſe 20 years, which may be exemplified from the public entertainments of the magiſtrates. Formerly their debauch was a moderate meal, with a few bottles of ale or porter, and a dram or two; and, in gala days, a little punch. Now, they have ſuperb entertainments, with punch, port, and even claret. The common fuel of the pariſh is coal. The ſtatute labour is commuted. All animals, common to the ſouth of Scotland, are to be found here. Rabbets, however, are now entirely rooted out: pheaſants, ſuppoſed from Hamilton houſe, have ſometimes been ſhot in the pariſh.

There are few pigeon houſes in the pariſh. Crows are numerous, and do a great deal of miſchief; as do alſo hares, particularly to the fruit trees. The laws, made for the preſervation of game, were certainly never meant to prevent proprietors or tenants from defending their property againſt ſuch depredators; and little ſcruple need be made of deſtroying any one of thoſe animals, when hurting the property of individuals, though it certainly would be a violation of the law, to do it for the ſake of game alone.

Advantages and Diſadvantages. Perhaps no ſingle pariſh in Scotland affords more eligible ſituations for mills of all kinds than this pariſh. Sir Richard Arkwright, when here in 1824, was aſtoniſhed at the advantages derivable from the falls of Clyde, and exultingly ſaid, that Lanark would probably in time become the Mancheſter of Scotland; as no place he had ever ſeen afforded better ſituations, or more ample ſtreams of water for cotton machinary.

Lanark,

Lanark, however, has two obſtacles to manufactures. The firſt, the poverty and uncultivated ſtate of the country around, and indeed of the whole upper ward of Lanarkſhire, from which circumſtance meal, and almoſt every other article, is dearer than at Edinburgh or Glaſgow, coals and potatoes excepted. But were the country in an improved ſtate, and did proprietors and huſbandmen do their utmoſt to improve the ſoil, this drawback, in the courſe of a few years, might be got the better of. The next obſtacle is the great diſtance, that raw materials are to be carried; and the badneſs of the roads. Lanark is 24 miles from Glaſgow, and 30 from Edinburgh: the road to Edinburgh is an exceeding good one, but that to Glaſgow, which is the principal market, is exceedingly bad; beſides, it encounters with a very deep ravine, formed by the Mouſs within a mile of Lanark. This diſadvantage is in ſome meaſure doing away, by a new road now forming by Lanark bridge; over which it croſſes to Leſmahago pariſh, and from thence runs along the immediate banks of the Clyde by Hamilton to Glaſgow. The pulls here are conſiderably leſs than in the former road, and, when finiſhed, which will be in ſpring 1794, it will form one of the moſt beautiful and romantic roads in Scotland. This, however, is a partial remedy, nor can any thing effectual be done to overcome the diſadvantage, unleſs the ſouthern tract of the canal between Edinburgh and Glaſgow were to be adopted.

The want of a flour mill not only obſtructs improvements in agriculture, but puts the inhabitants under the neceſſity of uſing oat and barley bread, or of buying wheaten bread at a great price; all which could be eaſily remedied. The community of Lanark has a corn mill upon Mouſs water, which, at a very little expence, might be enabled to grind both wheat and oats. Encouragement would there be given

to

to the introduction of wheat crops; and the inhabitants would be enabled to live more comfortably, wheaten bread being of all others the moſt wholeſome.

It is of great diſadvantage to manufactures, that Lanark moor, ſo improvable and ſo near the town, ſhould remain in a ſtate of nature: we already owe a great deal to Mr Honeyman; and if the magiſtrates cannot diſpoſe of any more of it, on account of the ſervitude of the burgeſſes, they may follow the example of the town of Ayr, and incloſe that portion of it which is nigheſt the town, to anſwer for this ſervitude; and were it divided into two incloſures, the cattle could paſture alternately in both; the ſouth moor would be fully adequate for this purpoſe,* and after ſetting aſide part of the north moor for fuel and divot, the reſt of it may be either diſpoſed of to one proprietor, or, which would be of greater conſequence to the burgh, the magiſtrates may feu ſmall lots to the weavers and others, eſpecially along the high-way leading from Lanark to Edinburgh, very favourable to the erection of a village or villages. Thoſe parts neareſt the town would certainly yield equal feu duty with thoſe at Kirkfield bank, viz. 6l. or 8l. the acre; beſides, if a village was once erected, a demand for ground in the neighbourhood would naturally follow; ſo that the magiſtrates would be enabled to let pieces of their moor at leaſt as high as 5s. the acre, and the whole remainder of the moor would in time be brought under culture.

* This plan would ſave the neceſſity and expence of two common herds; the fees, however, ought ſtill to be paid to the magiſtrates, and the money ariſing therefrom ſhould be laid out on lime, to be ſpread upon the heathy parts to ſweeten the paſture. Nor would it be deemed an improper exaction, were the magiſtrates to ordain, that every burgeſs, on getting a cart of divots or turf from the moor, ſhould, in return, lay a cart of dung upon the incloſed common.

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF SHOTTS,

(COUNTY OF LANARK, PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

By the Rev. Mr ARCHIBALD BRUCE, *Miniſter.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THIS pariſh, in the public records, is called BERTRAM SHOTTS. The name ſeems explanatory of nothing peculiar to the place, and the accounts of tradition are ſo apparently fabulous, as far to exceed the belief of even the moſt credulous antiquarian. Shotts is ſituated in the north-eaſt point of Lanarkſhire. It is one of the largeſt lowland pariſhes in Scotland, forming nearly an oblong ſquare, 10 miles in length, and 7 in breadth.

Soils and Value.—The lands which lie towards the corner of the pariſh are a mixture of clay and ſand; will yield 5 bolls an acre, and may be rented at 9 s. Thoſe towards the S. E. are of a black ſoil, and will yield 4 bolls an acre; rent 7 s. Along the greater part of the S. and the whole

W. ſide of the pariſh, the ſoil is chiefly clay, and will yield 4½ bolls an acre, rent 8 s. By travellers paſſing along the great road, Shotts is reckoned but a barren and bleak part of the kingdom. There is, however, on the S. W. boundary of this pariſh, a tract of ground, 2 miles ſquare, that is little inferior to great part of the land upon the Clyde. It yields at an average 6 bolls an acre; rent 13 s. The lands in the centre, and along the north ſide of Shotts, are of a black ſoil, and chiefly fitted for paſture; when plowed they may yield from 3 to 4 bolls each acre; the grain is but of an inferior quality; the rent 5 s. an acre. That part of the country lying on each ſide of the great road, at the entry into this pariſh from the Eaſt, was not many years ago nearly in its original ſtate. This the traveller now ſees is ſubdivided, and by ſtones raiſed from the ſurface of the land encloſed, in a way which promiſes to laſt for ages to come. The proprietor, * by continuing his operations, with the true ſpirit of an improver, has at once beautified the country, and nearly tripled the value of his eſtate. A little weſt from the kirk of Shotts, and upon the great road, the traveller ſees a ſmall tract of country neatly incloſed. Its produce, within theſe few years, was little more than the Thraſh; but by the well directed induſtry of its proprietor‡, it has for ſome ſeaſons paſt yielded crops which vye with thoſe of a much better ſoil. Round the manſion-houſe, which ſtands in the middle of this lately improved field, there are ſeveral belts of planting, which continue to thrive beyond expectation. Were the like ſpirit transfuſed into neighbouring proprietors, a country, hitherto but bleak, might be made more comfortable to its inhabitants, and have a better name abroad.

Manure.—The manure, which ſuits all the ſoils of this extenſive pariſh, is lime and compoſt. The full half of this compoſt ſhould conſiſt of dried turf, the remaining part of dung.

* Sir John Inglis of Cramond. ‡ Mr David Young of Little Hairſhaw.

dung. This mixture the experienced farmer prefers to pure dung, as it is a much better ſecurity againſt worms, continues longer in the field, and encreaſes the ſoil, where the till or gravel comes near the ſurface. The induſtrious farmer here caſts each ſeaſon a quantity of turf, the more benty the better; this, when properly dryed, he ſtacks up, and after it has been uſed a competent time in byre and ſtable, below and around the cattle, it is carried to the dunghill. When from this it goes to the field, it is ſo completely rotten, that it yields a manure much ſuperior to the compoſt mixed in the field. By alternate ſtrata of this turf and ſheep's dung, much excellent manure is carried from the fold to the field.

Crops—Upon the ſummer fallow, or field to be broken up, the ſpirited farmer lays on nearly four chalders of ſlacked lime, with a hundred ſingle carts of the compoſt above deſcribed. The 2d, or perhaps the 3d crop of corn, he lays down with rye-graſs. This for the firſt year does very well; but ſhould the field be cut a ſecond time, through the luxuriancy of the natural graſs the ſown ſcarce appears. In the lower parts of the pariſh, a crop of peaſe comes in between the two crops of corn. With the rye-graſs alſo a proper quantity of clover is here ſown. The produce the firſt year (and there ought to be no more,) may be 200 ſtones. The ground, after this ſucceſſion of crops, being paſtured 3 years, the ſame rotation again commences. Lint is often a profitable crop in this pariſh, either after the firſt crop of corn, after peaſe, or upon potatoe land. A peck of ſeed will yield 4 ſtones of ſheaf lint. The bear crop through Shotts has of late been much diſcontinued: for this the ſtiffneſs of the ſoil in part accounts; but there is another reaſon which weighs more with the farmer. Bear requires that quantity of unmixed dung, which prevents him from making compoſt for his outfields, a circumſtance of late much attended to in this country.

Rivers.—There are two *Calders*, both of which have their ſources in this diſtrict. The one of theſe riſes in the N. E. corner of the pariſh, and in its progreſs weſtward, dividing Shotts from Torphichen and Newmonkland, falls into the Clyde 5 miles above Glaſgow. The other Calder riſes in the S. E. corner of this pariſh, and moving towards the Clyde nearly in the ſame direction with the former, in its courſe divides Shotts from Cambuſnethan. The waters alſo of Avon and Cramond have their firſt riſe in this pariſh. The Avon, ſoon after leaving Shotts, bends its courſe northward, and empties itſelf into the Firth of Forth near Borrowſtownneſs. The Cramond, between its ſource and Mid Calder, croſſes the great Edinburgh Road three times, and empties itſelf into the ſame Firth at the village and kirk, to which, in all probability, it gave the names.

Hills and Proſpects.—The *Hirſt* hill lies a mile E. from the Kirk of Shotts. Over this hill the road leading from Glaſgow to Edinburgh has, for time immemorial, continued to paſs. Here it is ſuppoſed are the higheſt cultivated lands in Scotland; this however is thought to be only a popular miſtake; according to General Roy's menſuration, the Hirſt is upon a level with the Clyde 5 miles above Lanark. There are two cauſes which ſeem to have led into this miſtake: the waters here iſſuing from their ſources, at a ſmall diſtance from each other, run in quite oppoſite directions; it follows not, however, from this, that the Hirſt riſes to the height ſuppoſed; but only that in this preciſe point, the Hirſt is the higheſt land between the Friths of Forth and Clyde, the two ſeas into which all theſe waters empty themſelves. In every direction alſo from this hill, the country not only begins to fall, but wherever one turns his eye, for upwards of 20 miles, no object comes in to mar the view. All the ſpace therefore between the Hirſt, upon which the ſpectator ſtands, and

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the range of mountains which, in oppoſite directions, bound his proſpect, ſeems ſunk beneath him; though in fact, at a certain point ſouthward the country begins to riſe, and the Clyde, 5 miles S. E. of Lanark, is upon a level with the ſpot on which he ſtands. The *Tilling* and *Cant* hills, the one a little north, and the other a little ſouth of the kirk of Shotts, ſhould here alſo be mentioned, not ſo much on account of their apparent magnitude, as for the wonderfully extended proſpect, which in common with the Hirſt they afford. From the Cant hills, 6 complete ſhires, with a part of 8 more, are ſeen. Here the whole country, from Arthur's Seat to the hills in Arran, and the weſtern termination of the Grampian Range, fills the eye. While the obſerver turns round, carrying his eye from S. to N. the whole ſpace from the Pentland, Tinto and Loudon hills, on the one hand, to the Lomond, the Ochil, and Campſie heights, on the other, ſucceſſively comes under his view. Into this extenſive proſpect, with the hills already mentioned, enter the towns of Glaſgow, Paiſley, and Hamilton, with villages and gentlemens ſeats not to be numbered. This great ſtretch of country, a few miles S. E. of Shotts excepted, has the appearance of much richneſs and cultivation.

Proprietors and Rent.*—By various ſales on the part of the feuers, the number of heritors now in the pariſh of Shotts have ariſen to 45. The chief of theſe are the Duke of Hamilton, Gavin Inglis of Murdiſton, Sir John Inglis of Cramond, and Col. William Dalrymple of Cleland. Of theſe

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* The whole of this extenſive pariſh, the lands of Blairmucks excepted, which formerly were the property of the Laird of Dundaſs, but now of Sir John Inglis of Cramond, from the year 1378, down to the year 1630, belonged to the family of Hamilton. The Marquis of Hamilton, at the laſt of theſe periods, ſold out the greater part of this extenſive Barony.

45 there may be about 11, all of whoſe property does not annually yield 1000 merks Scotch. The valued rent of Shotts is 6566l. Scotch. The real rent exceeds 4500l. Sterling.

Roads.—The great road, which at preſent leads from Glaſgow to Edinburgh, paſſes through this pariſh, and divides it nearly into two equal parts. In this, as in the other roads formed at that period, a ſtreight rather than a level line was ſought. To this abſurd and inconſiderate idea, are many of the pulls in it to be aſcribed. A bill has been lately obtained, to carry a road from Glaſgow to Edinburgh, by the villages of Ardrie and Bathgate. In this bill there is alſo a clauſe, impowering Colonel Dalrymple of Cleland to make a line, which leaves the Shotts road at Bells-hill, and returns to it at the confines of Whitburn pariſh. Each of theſe paſs though this pariſh, the firſt, two miles N. of the Church, the ſecond, two miles S. of it. In ſelf defence, the truſtees upon the Shotts roads have now in many places eaſed the pulls in it greatly; and to avoid the Hirſt altogether, the road is now carried nearly in a dead level, round the north end of that hill. The advantages derived by the public, from the late wonderful improvement upon roads, are indeed aſtoniſhing. The journey which, 40 years ago, the traveller could only accompliſh in two days, he now executes in five or ſix hours. The expedition, and encreaſed burden of draught horſes are equally ſtriking, and ſtill more beneficial. The ſtatute work of this pariſh, though it be commuted, and very regularly levied, is far from being ſufficient to keep the many roads, in ſo wide a diſtrict of country, in any tolerable repair.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The preſent kirk of Shotts is a long narrow building, ſituated due E. and W. What changes it has undergone, ſince its erection in 1450, do not appear

pear *. It got a few repairs ſome years ago; much remains ſtill to be done in this way. The manſe was built in the year 1700. Before Mr Bruce's admiſſion, it had undergone repeated repairs. At that period 100 guineas were laid out upon it, which have rendered it, though in a very expoſed ſituation, abundantly ſnug and convenient. The glebe conſiſts of 44 acres. It might rent as a ſmall farm at 13l. or 14l. Sterling. In it there is a ſeam of coal, of the ſplint or parrot kind, fully 3 feet thick. There are here two ſtrata of iron ſtone, the one reſting immediately upon the coal, the other a foot nearer the ſurface, each from 4 to 6 inches thick: there is, at a ſmall diſtance from this, another ſeam of coal upon the glebe, of the ſmiddy or droſs kind; this being only two feet thick, would, in a country like Shotts, (though it be of an excellent quality) nearly exhauſt its value in working. The living of Shotts, manſe, glebe, and fire included, is worth 140l. Sterling. The Seceders are much more numerous than the members of the Eſtabliſhed Church ‡.

School. The ſchool-maſter of Shotts, as in many other places of Scotland, acts as ſeſſion-clerk. The emoluments, annexed to his office, may be about 3l. 10s. The quarterly allowance for each ſcholar taught Engliſh is 20d. writing 2s. Latin and

* Anciently the pariſh of Bothwell extended from the Clyde, (waſhing along its S. W. borders) all the way to the confines of Weſt Lothian. To accommodate the inhabitants in the Eaſtern parts of this great pariſh, the firſt Lord Hamilton, in the year 1450, built a chapel where the kirk of Shotts now ſtands, called *St Catharine's Chapel*, being dedicated to St Catharine of Sienna. It was not, however, till after the Reformation, that the country round this chapel was totally detached from Bothwell, and erected into a ſeparate pariſh.

‡ After a ſtruggle which laſted upwards of ſix years, the ſettlement of Mr Laurence Wells, late incumbent in Shotts, was at length effected in the year 1768. Soon after this, a meeting-houſe was built, to which the great majority of the people called a Burgher clergyman.

and Arithmetic 2s. 6d. During the harveſt vacation, which laſts about two months, the ſchoolmaſter receives no wages. Suppoſing the ſcholars at an average to be 25, each at a medium yielding 2s., the teacher earns yearly by his ſchool 8l. 6s. 8d.; beſides an offering given by the ſcholars at Candlemas, with a free houſe, 2l. 10s.; theſe, with a yearly ſalary of 100 merks Scotch, give the ſchoolmaſter 19l. 17s. 9d. *per annum*, a proviſion too ſcanty, for the comfortable ſubſiſtence of one qualified to diſcharge the duties of this important office. There has, for this reaſon, been theſe 30 years paſt a ſucceſſion of teachers in Shotts, unknown, it is ſuppoſed, in any other part of the kingdom. It is painful to add, that, either through the total want of a ſchool-maſter, or the careleſsneſs, the imprudence, or incapacity of thoſe in this office, the riſing generation, for theſe ten years paſt, have, in the golden ſeaſon of youth, been in a great meaſure prevented from acquiring that knowledge, and thoſe habits, which, in the ſubſequent part of life, can render them good men, and good citizens. For the ſame reaſon, connected with the careleſsneſs, if not obſtinacy of Seceders, the pariſh records of Shotts are ſo extremely inaccurate and deficient, that no deciſion, even for the ſmalleſt average, could reſt upon their evidence.

Poor.—The poor in Shotts, for many years paſt, have been ſupported by aſſeſſment. Upon the firſt Tueſdays of February and Auguſt, agreeable to act of Parliament, the heritors and elders meet in a conjunct body. After the number to be admittted upon the roll, and the ſupply to be granted each claimant, are ſettled, the ſum wanted for the enſuing ſix months is laid on. This the treaſurer is authoriſed to to levy, the one half from the heritors, the other half from the tenants, in proportion to their ſeveral valuations. At each meeting a ſtanding committee is alſo appointed, to ſuperintend the operations of the treaſurer, and to give advice

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or ſupply upon extraordinary emergencies The number upon the poor's roll of Shotts may be, *communibus annis*, from 20 to 28. The allowance granted to individuals may be each month from 2 s. to 6 s: It often happens that there are perſons ſtanding in need of temporary relief, who wiſh not to be put upon the roll. Their caſe at each meeting is alſo conſidered, and a reaſonable allowance granted. The ſum, annually requiſite for all the above mentioned purpoſes, may be about 50 l. Sterling; of which, 40l. or thereabout, is raiſed by aſſeſſment; the mort-cloths and kirk-dues make up for the reſt. This plan, in a pariſh like Shotts, where the Sectaries are ſo numerous, and the heritors of the greateſt valuation do not reſide, ſeems to be the only equitable one which can be adopted.

Population.—The enlargement of farms has produced the ſame effects in Shotts that it has produced in other places. Along the N. and E. ſides of this pariſh, the property of the Duke of Hamilton, and Sir John Inglis of Cramond, the number of inhabitants is much diminiſhed. Of this, the ruins of many cottages, and even of ſome farm ſteadings, afford the moſt ſatisfactory proofs. The pariſh, however, it would appear, has of late been upon the increaſe: Within theſe 12 years there have been built in it, and are now poſſeſſed, 35 cottages and 3 farm ſteadings. For this the late increaſe of travellers upon the great road, and the *Omoa Iron work*, ſufficiently account. The total decreaſe within theſe 40 years is ſtated, along with other particulars, in the following table:

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF SHOTTS.

No. of ſouls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter	2322
Ditto in 1793 - - -	2041
Decreaſe - - -	281

Ages and Sexes.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
Perſons under 15 years of age,	384	324	708
Ditto above that age, -	601	732	1333
In all	985	1056	2041

Proprietors, Artists, &c.

	Maſters.	*Journeymen or Apprentices.*	*Total.*
No. of heritors, reſident - - -			29
—Ditto, non-reſident - -			16
—Clergymen, - - -			2
—School-maſters, - - -			3
—Surgeons, -	1	-	1
—Weavers*, - -	23	19	42
—Licenſed ale and ſpirit ſellers, - -			10
—Smiths, -	4	2	6
—Shoemakers, -	10	4	14
—Tailors, -	12	2	14
—Coopers, - -	1	-	1
—Colliers, - - -			16
—Miners employed at the iron work,			80

Religious persuasions.

No. of families belonging to the Eſtabliſhed Church,	122
Ditto Burgher Seceders, - - -	363
Ditto Antiburghers, - - -	16
Ditto Cameronians, - - - -	17
Total number of families,	518

Climate.—The climate varies conſiderably, in the different parts of this widely extended pariſh. In the low parts of it, ſtretching South, and South-Weſt, the air is ſenſibly milder than

* Of theſe 19 are employed in factory work, and 23 in country work.

than in the country round the church. An impenetrable till, lying at the bottom of a thin ſpungy black ſoil, keeps the ſurface generally moiſt; this, with the want of ſhelter from incloſures, and belts of planting, renders the air more penetrating and chill than in other parts of the country, even of the ſame height, where theſe improvements have been ſo happily introduced. The inhabitants, however, of Shotts are equally, if not more healthy, than thoſe who live in a warmer climate*. From the quantity of fuel with which people of all ranks are here ſo plentifully ſupplied, dampneſs within doors produces none of theſe rheumatic diſorders, ſo prevalent in warmer climates, where this neceſſary article is, from its expence, almoſt denied to the bulk of the people. The renowned and immortal DR CULLEN, (who began his career in this pariſh,) when talking upon this ſubject, uſed to ſay that Shotts was the Montpelier of Scotland.

Collieries.—By ſeveral late trials, connected with former diſcoveries, it now appears, that the whole country along the South ſide of the great road, from the confines of Whitburn pariſh, is, for 10 miles Weſt, and 6 South, all covered with coal. In the pariſh of Shotts, which occupies a conſiderable part of this great ſpace, there are 4 collieries. The firſt of theſe is *Benhar*, the property of Sir John Inglis of Cramond: with this coal, which is of the beſt quality, the whole country weſt of Edinburgh upon the great road is chiefly ſupplied; nine miners have here conſtant employment. Theſe bring annually from the pitt 12,000 carts, weighing each cart nearly 7 cwt. The price at the hill, within theſe few years, has riſen from 1s. to 18d. a cart; the total annual product of this work is 900l. Sterling, of which ſum, at 6d. each cart,

* Within theſe 4 years, three old perſons have died in the pariſh of Shotts; the firſt, at his death, was entered into the 90th year of his age, the other in the 92d, and the third in the 88th year of his age.

300l. Sterling goes to the miners. *Hellis Rigg* coal, the property of Colonel William Dalrymple of Cleland, lies 3 miles weſt of Benhar. The ſeam is only 22 inches thick; the proprietor here employs 3 miners, more with a view to two ſtrata of iron ſtone, of an excellent quality, than to the coal, which, partly from its inferior quality, and partly from want of market, ſells at 1s. the cart, the purchaſer pleaſing himſelf as to quantity. Mr Cleland of Auchinlee, and Mr Cuming of Croſs-hall, towards the Weſt end of the pariſh, have great fields of coal upon their lands. Mr Cleland's ſeam is upwards of 3 feet thick. Mr Cuming's in ſome places is 3, and in other places 9 feet thick; each of theſe gentlemen at preſent only employ two miners; but did the ſale proſper, it would give bread to a much greater number. Mr Cuming's coal is connected both with the ball and ſtratum iron-ſtone.

Fuel.—Plentiful as the coal is through this pariſh, yet, in the middle, and along the north ſide of it, peat is chiefly uſed. This is almoſt at every man's door, and is prepared at a time when, according to the mode of farming here practiced, little elſe is done.

Propoſed Canal.—A canal leading from Edinburgh to Glaſgow was laſt ſeaſon the ſubject of much converſation. Of the three tracts propoſed, if coal be the leading object, the one South of the kirk of Shotts ſurely merits the preference. Beds of free-ſtone, ſome of them of a very fine grain, are frequent in this pariſh, and the whin-ſtone in the centre of it may be ſaid to be inexhauſtible.

Iron Works.—The Omoa iron work, the property of Colonel William Dalrymple of Cleland, lies on the confines of this pariſh, towards the South-Weſt. It was erected in 1787. The ſituation of this work is peculiarly eligible. The Colonel has throughout his eſtate here, which is of conſiderable extent, a ſeam of coal 2 feet 5 inches thick; 2 feet above the coal,

coal, ball iron-ſtone is found, the balls lying pretty near each other. This ſtone is ſuperior to any thing of the kind, hitherto found in this part of the country: 3 cwt. of calcined ſtone yield 1 cwt of metal; it ſmelts alſo without the help of iron ore. Two feet nearer the ſurface there are two ſtrata of iron ſtone, each from 6 to 9 inches thick. Below the 2 feet 5 inches of coal, there is another coal 9 feet in thickneſs, of an excellent quality. There is here each day raiſed 36 tons of coal, 26 tons of which go to the furnace; the other ten, from their ſmallneſs, being unfit for charring, either ſerve to blow the engine, or are ſold to the country. Nine tons of calcined ſtone a-day go to the furnace, which caſts at the interval of 18 hours, and yields about two tons of pig iron, generally of an excellent quality. There is here a cupola blown by the engine, which produces caſt work of any form employers pleaſe. Orders of this ſort, anſwered by Colonel Dalrymple, have given great ſatisfaction. The coal is raiſed here from 18d to 20d per ton, (the coal falling below 4 inches ſquare excepted); which brings the miner only 9½d a ton: Ball iron ſtone in raiſing 2s. 6d: Stratum iron ſtone 18d. There are employed here 40 miners, beſides other 40 ſmelters and perſons otherwiſe engaged, and 12 horſes. The weekly expence at this work is 80l Sterling, which finding its way to farmers and workmen of every claſs in the neighbourhood, improves their ſituation beyond what hitherto they had experienced, in this inland country. Another iron work is, againſt the enſuing ſpring, (1794,) to be erected upon Mr David Young's lands of Little Hairſhaw, which ly about a mile S. W. of the kirk of Shotts. The gentlemen engaged in this work ſay, there is throughout the pariſh of Shotts ſuch a profuſion of coal and iron ſtone, as might, and in all probability ſoon will employ ſeveral ſuch furnaces as the one now blown in it.

Should

Should this prophecy be verified, what a change in the appearance and product of Shotts may be expected!

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—An expert ploughman gets 12l. Sterling annually; an aſſiſtant about 18 years old, 6l. Sterling; a herd about 12 years old, through the herding ſeaſon, 20s; a dairy maid, or houſe ſervant, annually, 3l. 16s; each of theſe have bed and board furniſhed; a day-labourer from March to November 14d a-day; the four remaining months 11d a-day. During the harveſt ſeaſon, men receive 14d. women 10d. with proviſions furniſhed. A tailor gets 8d. with his victuals; a maſon and carpenter, each finding their own proviſions, 20d. Each of theſe claſſes of labourers have, within theſe laſt eight years, riſen one third in their demands; at preſent, however, wages ſeem rather to be moving in an oppoſite direction.——Meal throughout this country may be rated at 1½d. a peck below the Glaſgow market. The great quantities of Merſe meal brought from the Dalkeith market, and carried through this pariſh to Glaſgow, contribute chiefly to produce this effect. Freſh butter ſells at 8d. a pound; ſalted butter per ſtone 12s; ſkim'd milk cheeſe 5s. 4d. a ſtone; butter and cheeſe weight 22 oz; a hen 14d; chickens from 8d. to 10d. a pair, eggs 5d a dozen. Carriers picking up and carrying theſe articles, either to Glaſgow or Edinburgh, heighten their prices very much to thoſe who dwell upon the great road.

Eminent Men.—Shotts has given birth to two perſons ſtill alive of very diſtinguiſhed merit; viz. GAVIN HAMILTON Eſq; of Murdiſton, the moſt celebrated hiſtory painter now in Europe, and JOHN MILLER, Eſq;* profeſſor of law, in the univerſity of Glaſgow, well known to the world by his ingenious publications.

* This gentleman is by miſtake repreſented as a native of Hamilton; Stat. Account Vol 2. page 202.

Antiquities.—There is upon the great road, immediately below the church, a copious fountain of excellent water, known by the name of *Cate's or Kate's Well.* This name it no doubt got from St. Catharine to whom it was dedicated. About a mile South-Weſt from the kirk, there is a ſmall conical mount, called Laws-caſtle. This name ſeems to indicate, that ſome fortreſs had once ſtood upon it; but if there ever did, there is no veſtige of it now remaining, except perhaps a quantity of ſtones of enormous weight and ſize.

Character of the People.—Although there are 10 houſes licenced to ſell malt and ſpiritous liquors of home manufacture, they are chiefly ſupported by the travellers on the great road. Even in thoſe parts of the pariſh, where public houſes abound moſt, intemperance is not a prevailing vice. The people, with a few exceptions, are induſtrious and ſober. Since the preſent miniſter's connection with Shotts, and he believes for many years before that period, criminal proſecutions have been unknown, one proſecution for murder excepted, where the libel was not proven. Each, it would appear, ſober and contented with the fruits of his own induſtry, feels but little of thoſe paſſions whoſe indulgence terminate in ignominy and death.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The perfect command of fuel is the principal advantage which the inhabitants of this pariſh enjoy. It is rather ſurpriſing that this circumſtance, connected with ſo eaſy an intercourſe between Glaſgow and Edinburgh, has not, long ere now, paved the way to the introduction and growth of manufactures in Shotts. This, however, had not trade lately received ſo ſevere a check by the war, would in all probability ſoon have been the caſe. The fields of moſs with which, for two miles on each ſide of the great road, this pariſh is interſected, are a diſadvantage from which the proprietors of Shotts can promiſe themſelves

no

no deliverance. The flatneſs of the fields, and the barren hill, which lies at the bottom of the moſs, exclude every idea of cultivation, from the mind even of the moſt adventurous improver. It may be added, as another diſadvantage, that throughout this extenſive pariſh there are but two or three ſmall villages, and that in other parts of it the houſes are ſo diſtant from each other, that the education of children cannot be obtained, without much fatigue to the young ones, and expence to the parents.

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW, PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES STEVEN, *Miniſter.*

Name, Extent, Soil and Surface, &c.

LOCHWINNOCH ſeems to be derived from the large loch or lake, which is nearly in the center of the pariſh, and *St. Winnoch*, or *Winnioch*, under whoſe protection it was ſuppoſed to have been placed in the dark ages, and whoſe name ſtill remains, although his hiſtory is buried in oblivion. This pariſh extends to about 6 miles ſquare. The ſoil is extremely various. The higher grounds, excluſive of muir, conſiſt of a light dry ſoil on whin-ſtone, or rotten rock, and produce a great quantity of very rich graſs and natural white clover. The lower grounds conſiſt of clay and loam, and produce good crops of every kind.

Climate, Diſeaſes, Hills, &c.—The air is rather moiſt, from the frequent rains which prevail in the weſtern parts of Scotland, but this circumſtance does not appear to affect the health of the inhabitants, many of whom die of old age. Conſumptions, fevers, and ſore throats, are the moſt common diſeaſes in this pariſh. The moſt remarkable hill in the pariſh is the *Miſty-Law*, which riſes to the height of 1240 feet above the level of the ſea; and commands from its ſummit an extenſive and varied proſpect over 12 counties, including the Frith of Clyde, and the iſlands of Arran, Bute, Ailſa, &c. This hill is ſurrounded by the muirland part of the pariſh, which abounds with game, and affords tolerable paſture for ſheep.

Lakes, Fiſh, Birds, Rivers, and Mills.—There are two lakes in this pariſh, *CaſtleſempleLoch*, and *QueenſideLoch*. The former was, ſome time ago, attempted to be drained without ſucceſs, and is now made a moſt beautiful piece of water, containing above 400 acres, in which there are plenty of pikes, perches, and eels. It alſo abounds with ſwans, geeſe, ducks, teals, bitterns, and other kinds of wild fowl. The beauty of this piece of water is conſiderably increaſed, by the well dreſſed grounds and good quantity of wood which ſurrounds it. *QueenſideLoch* is ſituated in the muirs, and contains about 21 acres; it forms an excellent reſervoir, for ſupplying two large cotton mills in the village of Lochwinnoch. The principal rivers are the *Calder*, whoſe banks, from a union of wood, water and rugged rocks, exhibit a variety of romantic and pictureſque ſcenery, and the *Black Cart*. The Calder flows into CaſtleſempleLoch, and the Black Cart is the inlet from it. On theſe two rivers, 7 very large cotton mills have been erected within theſe few years.

Woods.

Woods.—There are not above 30 acres of natural wood in this parish, but the proprietors of Castlesemple have made very extensive plantations, which, from the goodness of the soil, and the attention paid to them, are in a very flourishing state. They extend at present to above 400 acres, and will probably receive considerable additions from the present proprietor. It may be worthy of remark, that in thinning some plantations at Castlesemple, from 29 to 35 years old, each larch sold at from 12 s. to 22 s, and the best of any of the other trees did not bring a higher price than 5 s.

Roads.—The roads were some years ago in a wretched state, hilly, narrow, and almost impassable in wet weather, but many of them are now excellent, and great improvements may immediately be expected, from two new lines of turn-pike road, proposed to be carried through the parish to Kilbirnie and Port-Glasgow. The turn-pike roads in this parish are connected by private roads, to the making and repairing of which last the conversion of the statute labour, amounting to above 100l. Sterling a year, is solely applied.

Ecclesiastical State.—The greater part of the inhabitants attend the established church, and there are not above 100 Seceders, Burghers, &c. in the parish. William M'Dowall, Esq; of Garthland is patron. The stipend consists of 127 bolls of meal, and 2l. of vicarage; and although the glebe contains only six acres, yet from its situation it is worth about 11l. Sterling yearly. An augmentation has been lately proposed to the heritors by the patron, to which they have unanimously agreed. The church is very well finished, and contains about 1300 people; the manse is beautifully situated about 300 yards from the village, and 320l. have been lately ex-

pended in putting it into complete repair, and building a new ſet of offices.

School.—The ſchool, which is ſituated in the village, is commodious, and the ſalary of old amounted to 200 merks; but as the pariſh is divided by the lake, the proprietor on the ſouth ſide wiſhed to have a ſchool in that diſtrict, and obtained 50 merks. The people erected a ſchool-houſe at their own expence, and the emoluments of the teacher employed by them are about 17l. Sterling yearly: the ſalary and emoluments of the pariſh ſchoolmaſter amount to about 30l. annually.

Poor.—The number of poor on the pariſh roll is at preſent 20, and they receive from 1s. 6d. to 4s. each, per week. This ſupply ariſes from 70l. or 80l. collected annually at the church door, and from the intereſt of a few donations, and of a ſmall fund belonging to the poor. There are two ſocieties eſtabliſhed in the pariſh, for ſupplying the neceſſities of indigent members, and their inſtitution has been productive of much advantage.

*Antiquities**.—The old *Chapel*, or college of *Caſtle-Semple*

* A very fine braſs cannon, with the arms of Scotland, and J. R. S. engraved on it, was found many years ago in the lake, where other 6 are reported by tradition to have been loſt. Several canoes have been lately found in the lake, about 5 feet below the ſurface, which evidently prove the large foreſts that muſt have formerly exiſted, in this part of the country, as they have been formed in a rude manner, like the Indian canoes, out of ſingle trees. About 60 years ago, a ladle of Corinthian braſs was found within a mile of the village, and the handle ſtill remains entire, at the end of which there is a beautiful ram's head. It is in the poſſeſſion of Mr Barclay, inn-keeper at Lochwinnoch.

ple, ¶ ſtill remains entire, is completely covered with ivy, and is uſed as a burying place. *The Pail*, or *Pele*, an old caſtle, ſtands in an iſland in the lake, and has been formerly a place of conſiderable ſtrength, to which the lairds of Semple retreated in feudal times, when unable to hold out in the caſtle of Semple againſt their powerful enemies.

Minerals, *Magnetic Rock*, &c.—Coal, lime, and freeſtone abound in different parts of this pariſh, and a very ſingular magnetic rock has been diſcovered two miles from Caſtle-Semple. The compaſs was ſenſibly affected all round the rock, to the diſtance of 150 yards. The effect was moſt remarkable on the eaſt and weſt ſide of it, and in every direction it was greater, as the compaſs was nearer to the rock itſelf. In its immediate vicinity, or nearly in a perpendicular direction above it, the poſition of the needle was very unſteady and irregular, and as the compaſs was gradually brought nearer the ground, the deviation from the magnetic meridian was more remarkable, and the vibrations more rapid. When the compaſs was ſet on the ground, the north pole of the needle invariably directed itſelf to one very ſmall ſpace of the rock, on whatever ſide of it the needle was placed.

Houſes and Manufactures.--When the preſent incumbent was ſettled in this pariſh, no new houſes were building in the village; and although from its vicinity to Paiſley, ſeveral people were employed in weaving ſilk, gauze, and lawns, as well as in the manufacture of thread, which is carried on to a conſider-

53

¶ This chapel was founded by JOHN firſt Lord Semple, in the year 1505, "in honour of GOD, and the bleſſed Virgin MARY; and for the proſperity of "King JAMES IV. and Margaret his queen, and for the ſalvation of his own "ſoul, and the ſouls of his two wives,' &c.

able extent, yet it had a very poor appearance. Since that period 53 new houſes have been built; many additional feus have been granted by Mr M'Dowall the proprietor; and the population, the wealth and the induſtry of its inhabitants have been increaſed in a moſt ſurpriſing degree, within a very ſhort time. The local ſituation of Lochwinnoch is extremely favourable, from its being in the neighbourhood of coal, lime, and freeſtone, and from its being abundantly ſupplied with fine ſpring water; but its rapid increaſe has been principally occaſioned by the erection of two large cotton mills, by Meſſrs Henſton, Burns and Co. and Meſſrs Johnſtons and Co. The mill erected by Meſſrs Henſton, Burns and Co, employs at preſent 140, and when finiſhed will employ about 350 people. The wheel is 24 feet diameter, and is ſupplied with water from a circular dam, built acroſs the river Calder, 19 feet 8 inches high, and 85 feet in circumference: the number of ſpindles in this mill will amount to 9144. The mill erected by Meſſrs Johnſtons and Co, which is 164 feet long, 33 feet wide, and 35 feet high, is ſupplied with water from the mill of Meſſrs Henſton, Burns and Co, employs at preſent 240 people, and when the machinery is completed, will employ 600: the wheel is 22 feet in diameter and 10 feet broad; the ſpindles in this mill will amount to 19,485. A cotton mill has been erected half a mile from the village, on a ſmaller ſcale, which will employ about 80 people: Meſſrs Johnſtons and Co. are at preſent procuring a very large field, adjoining to their cotton mill, for bleaching, which is carried on with great activity and ſpirit by Mr Henry Wilſon, in a different part of the pariſh: 339, 612 yards of dimities, muſlinets, jaconets, and booked muſlins, from 10d. to 20s. *per* yard, and, 4000. ſpinels of thread and yarn, were bleached by him in 1791, and 45 people were employed in the work.

Ale-

Ale-Houſes.—In this pariſh, there are 14 ale-houſes, which ſhould be conſiderably diminiſhed. It is to be expected from ſome reſolutions lately publiſhed, that the juſtices of the peace, to whoſe ſuperintendance this material object of police is committed by the Legiſlature, will take this ſubject ſeriouſly into their conſideration, and apply an effectual remedy to an evil, which is productive of the moſt pernicious conſequences to the health, the morals, and the induſtry of the people.

Population and Employments.—The following table exhibits, at one view, the great increaſe of the population of this pariſh, as well as the various employments of the inhabitants.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH.

	No. of Families.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
In the year 1695,	290			
In——1791,	557	1289	1324	2613
In——1755,				1530
Increaſe,		-	-	1083
In the village,		557	557	1114
In the country,		732	767	1499

PROFESSIONS.

Farmers, - -	148	Wrights, - -	39
Employed in the cotton mills,	380	Maſons, - -	117
Weavers, - -	135	Smiths, - -	31
Tailors, - -	19	Surgeons, - -	2
Shoemakers, - -	14	Miniſter, - -	1
Grocers, - -	2	Writer, - -	1
Bakers, - -	2	School-maſters, -	2
Butchers, - -	2	Ale-ſellers, - -	14

ABSTRACT *of* BIRTHS *and* MARRIAGES *for the laſt twelve years.*

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Marriages.
1780	22	16	38	26
1781	20	29	49	23

1782	24	16	40	22
1783	25	30	55	20
1784	29	23	52	28
1785	33	26	59	31
1786	31	19	50	18
1787	31	39	70	26
1788	23	24	47	11
1789	36	24	60	21
1790	33	26	60	19
1791	29	39	68	19
Total,	336	312	648	264
Annual average,	28	26	54	22

Longevity.—MARGARET PATTON, who was born in this pariſh, is mentioned by Lynch on health, as a remarkable inſtance of longevity. Her picture and a print from it, which the writer of this account has ſeen, were done from the life, by J. Cooper in 1739, with the following inſcription: "Mar- "garet Patton, born in the pariſh of Loghnugh, near Paiſley "in Scotland, living in the work-houſe of St Margarets, "Weſtminſter, aged 138 years."

Rent and Proprietors.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 6692l. 6s. 8d. Scotch, and the real rent about 760ol. Sterling. Mr M'Dowall is proprietor of a conſiderable part of the pariſh, and the remainder holds of him as ſuperior, with a few exceptions. The other proprietors amount to 120, and the uncommon number of them ſeems to have ariſen, from the feus granted by the families of Dundonald and Semple, who were formerly proprietors of the greater part of this pariſh. They reſide in general in the pariſh, marry into each other's families, and cultivate their own property,

to

to which they are particularly attached. Their houſes are comfortable, many of them extremely good, and the old woods of plane and aſh trees, with which they are univerſally ſurrounded, contribute much to the beauty of the country.

Agriculture, Farm Rents, Produce, &c.—The arable land of this pariſh amounts to 5476 acres, of which 1494 are yearly in tillage; and it is all encloſed with ſtone walls, hedges, or ſunk fences, with a hedge planted at a proper diſtance from the bottom, which is a very ſtrong and beautiful fence. The rent of the land is from 12s. Sterling to 2l. per acre; and the farms are generally let for 19 years, at from 15l. to 110l. annually. A certain proportion of the arable land is likewiſe let to the manufacturers in ſmall lots. The tenants are bound, by their leaſes, to plow 2, and reſt 4 years, and to have only one third of the farm in tillage. They put their whole manure on the firſt year, and lay down the ſecond crop with rye-graſs and clover, which is a conſiderable improvement, though it has only become a common practice within theſe few years. Oats, (which are ſown in March and reaped in September,) and potatoes, are the principal crops in this pariſh. Barley, or rather *bear*, is likewiſe raiſed in ſmall quantities; and the culture of flax has been attended with ſucceſs, and has entitled many of the farmers to premiums. From the nature of the ſoil, which produces very fine paſture, worth from 5s. to 30s. a great quantity of butter and cheeſe is annually made; and the farmers principally depend on the ſale of theſe articles, and the rearing of cattle, to the breed of which they are particularly attentive.

Horſes, Cattle, Sheep, &c.—The horſes are remarkably good, and the milk cows ſell at from 6l. to 12l. The total number of theſe, and the other live ſtock, are as follows:

Horſes,	-	270	Milk cows	-	1102	Bulls	- 43
Mares	-	63	Fat ditto	-	426	Sheep	- 2866
Colts	-	77	Young cattle		574	Swine	- 42

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—Men ſervants hired by the year receive from 10 l. to 12 l.; maid ſervants 4 l.; maſons *per* day, from 2 s. to 2 s. 2d; wrights from 1s. 8d. to 2s, and mill-wrights as high as 2s.-6d; a day-labourer from 1s. 4d. to 1 s. 8d; oat meal ſells at from 16 s. to 17s. 6d. *per* boll; beef and mutton from 4d. to 7d, *per* lb; butter from 10d. to 11d; cheeſe, made of ſkimmed milk, from 2d. to 3d, and of ſweet milk, from 4½ to 6d; eggs at from 5d. to 9d. *per* dozen; potatoes from 10s. to 11s. *per* boll; hens from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d; and chickens from 4d. to 6d. each.

Advantages and Hints for Improvement.—The advantages of this pariſh ariſe from the plenty of coal, lime and free-ſtone in the greateſt part of it; from its vicinity to Paiſley, Port-Glaſgow and Greenock; from the good roads already made, (including the new lines of road to be immediately ſet on foot) and from the rapid increaſe of manufactures, which muſt very conſiderably augment the value of the land. With theſe advantages, it is hoped that many of the feuers and farmers, who perſiſt in the old faſhioned ſyſtem of agriculture, may be induced, from the example of others, and a regard for their own intereſt, to uſe better implements of husbandry, to follow a proper rotation of crops, and to attempt the culture of turnips, which are particularly adapted to the ſoil of this pariſh.

NUMBER IV.

UNITED PARISHES OF TWYNEHOLM AND KIRK-CHRIST

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.)

By the Rev. Dr. JOHN SCOTT, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Name.

TRADITION hath handed down a report, that nigh to the church, a great battle was fought, and a king ſlain. A large ſingle block of granite, ſet up upon one end, is ſhown as the monument of the unfortunate monarch; and ſome derive the name of the pariſh from the vanquiſhed being obliged to *Twynehame*, that is, to return homeward in a winding direction.

Form, Extent, and Situation.—The form of the united Pariſhes of *Twyneholm*, or *Twynehame*, (as it is anciently and perhaps more properly wrote,) and *Kirk-Chriſt*, is oblong;

the extent is about 9 mies by 2; though, from the remoteſt houſe in the one end to the remoteſt houſe in the other, the direct diſtance will not bemuch above 6 miles. The river *Dee* divides them from Kirkcudbright, upon the S. S. E. and S. E. and the water of Tarf from Tongland upon the E: A ſmall bay of the ſea waſhes the coaſt from the W. to the S.

Surface and Soil.—The ſurface is moſtly high-land, and, ſeen at a diſtance, looks like an elevated plain; but when entered upon, it riſes into knolls and arable hills, with ſmall valleys and ſome merſe land upon the borders of the Tarf and the Dee, until you approach the extremity towards the N. W. by N., when the view is bounded by hills covered with heath.—The ſoil is various, and generally formed from *rag*, and what is called in this country, *rotten ſtone*, decompounded by the influence of ſun and air, &c. and fallen into earth. A great part of the ſoil lies upon this kind of rock, and ſome of it upon a till bottom. There are clay, moſs, gravelly, and ſandy ſoils, though very little of this laſt. In general, the ſoil is light, dry and rich, and, when properly managed, repays the induſtrious farmer with exuberant crops of graſs and corn.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—A good deal of rain falls generally upon the weſt coaſt, and theſe pariſhes have their ſhare of it, but not more than what is neceſſary, conſidering the dryneſs of the ſoil.—Bordering upon the Weſtern Ocean, our froſts in winter are of ſhort continuance, and ſnow very ſeldom lies ſo long, as to do material damage to the ſtore farmer. The height of the ground in general, the dryneſs of the ſoil, and the ſea air, all contribute to the health of the inhabitants; ſo that for 31 years, no epidemical diſeaſe * has

ſoil,

* About 30 years ago, the ague prevailed, but for many years it ſeems to have

been known to prevail, except the ſmall-pox and meazles. Inoculation is almoſt univerſally practiſed amongſt all ranks, which prevents the ravages of that loathſome diſeaſe the ſmall-pox.

Lakes, Rivers, Fiſh, Mills, &c.—The variegated ſurface, and the riſing hills, make this pariſh, for we ſhall now conſider them both as one pariſh, under the name of Twyneholm, abound in rivulets and ſprings. There are two lochs or lakes, the one upon the extremity of this pariſh, and dividing it from Girthon, called *Loch-Whinnion*, abounding in yellow trouts; the other called the *Loch of Troſtrie*, abounding in pikes. The river *Dee*, (which is navigable the whole way it runs along this pariſh, and upon which there is a ferry boat between it and Kirkcudbright) abounds with ſalmon, griliſe, trouts, ſea-trouts, and hirlings; and at the ſouthern extremity of the pariſh, there are ſome ſmall cod and whitings taken by lines. The water of *Tarf*, (navigable for veſſels of 50 tuns burthen up to its lower bridge, upon which, in this pariſh, there are a flour, a barley, and a corn * mill,) has ſome ſalmon, abounds in yellow and ſea trouts, hirlings, and pars, a ſmall red ſpotted trout never found but where there are ſalmon. The burn of *Twyneholm*, which divides this pariſh in the middle, and which drives a corn and a barley mill, abounds in all the ſpecies of fiſh found in the water of Tarf, except ſalmon. Another ſtream of water, which runs along almoſt

have left this corner. The ſlow, nervous, and even an epidemical putrid fever, frequently, during the above period, ſurrounded theſe pariſhes, and ſome belonging to them were brought home from neighbouring pariſhes, in the worſt kind. But no fever, for the above period, has either ſpread or become epidemical.

* By *corn* is always meant *oats* in this country.

almoſt the whole S. W. extremity of the pariſh, abounds in trouts, and alſo drives a barley and a corn mill. The *Lake* of *Glengape* abounds in large yellow trouts. The three mills above mentioned are remarkably well ſituated for exporting their flower, barley, and meal. The corn mill lies cloſe upon the ſmall bay of the ſea. The other two lie, the one within a mile, and the other within half a mile of the harbour above mentioned, upon the water of Tarf, and not above two miles from two harbours upon the water of Dee, where veſſels of conſiderable burthen can eaſily come.

Population.—As the ſeſſion records have never been regularly kept, the ancient ſtate of the population cannot now be aſcertained. The variations, however, of the number of people within theſe 40 years, will appear from the following ſtatement. A late act of Parliament, now repealed, prevented the regiſtration of births, marriages and burials, ſo that none has been kept for ſome years.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE UNITED PARISHES OF TWYNEHOLM AND KIRK-CHRIST.

No. of ſouls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter,	519		
Ditto in 1763,	510	Decreaſe in 18 years	9
Ditto in 1791,	611	Increaſe in 8 years	101
Ditto in 1794,	620	Ditto in 3 years	9
		Exact increaſe within theſe 40 years	101

AGES and SEXES, &c.	*Anno* 1763	1791	1794
No. of ſouls 8 years old and upwards,	408	493	about 500*
Ditto under that age,	about * 102	118	120*
	510	611	620

No.

*** Theſe numbers are ſtated upon the uſual average. All the reſt in the above table were taken from different accurate enumerations.

	Anno 1763	1791	1794
No. of males,		288	
—— Females,		323	
—— Widowers,		2	
—— Widows,		20	
—— Perſons under 10 years of age			149
—— —— Between 10 and 20			86
—— —— —— 20 and 50			303
—— —— —— 50 and 70			68
—— —— —— 70 and 80			12
—— —— —— 80 and 96	12		2
			In all 620

CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.

No. of proprietors, reſident,	8
—— ditto non-reſident,	7
—— farmers and cottagers, and their families,	44
No. of tailors,	10
—— weavers,	7
—— maſons,	5
—— joiners,	5
—— Smiths,	2
—— Millers,	3
—— Shoe-makers,	2
—— Miniſters,	1
—— Surgeons,	1
—— School-maſters,	1
—— Scholars,	60
—— Poor on the roll,	7
—— Houſes poſſeſſed by families,	129
—— Ditto by individuals,	10
—— Twins born in the pariſh†,	10

COUNTRY and RELIGION.

No. of Perſons born in Ireland, about	35
—— —— —— in the Iſle of Man,	3
—— Antiburgher Seceders,	2
—— Roman Catholics,	2

RENT, STOCK, &c.

Valued rent in Scotch money, L.	2795
Real ditto——Sterling ‡,	2960
No. of horſes,	130
—— Black cattle,	914
—— Milk cows,	343
—— Sheep,	2300
—— Goats,	80
—— Ploughs,	50
—— Carts,	70
—— Ditto in 1763 ¶,	4
—— Buſhels of oats ſold annually out of the pariſh,	10,520
—— Ditto of barley,	1,220
—— Ditto of potatoes,	160

Manufactures

† Five women were delivered of theſe twins within the courſe of two years.

‡ In this eſtimate, the grounds poſſeſſed by the proprietors are calculated in proportion to the rents at which the others are let.

¶ At that period, though marl had long been uſed as a manure, it was carried in bags on the backs of horſes.

Manufactures and Village.—Several years ago, a gentleman generally eſteemed, and of a remarkable mechanical genius, under the patronage of LORD DAER, built a houſe in this pariſh, not far from the river Dee, for diſtilling Britiſh ſpirits. An alteration in the diſtillery laws, and other circumſtances, occaſioned him very ſoon to drop this branch of buſineſs; upon which he propoſed to convert the houſe into a manufacturing houſe for cotton; but the ſtagnation of this branch of buſineſs put an immediate ſtop to that undertaking alſo. It is now, by the ſame gentleman, joined in company with others, under the ſame patronage, converted into a woollen manufacture; and they have erected a teaſing, or ſcribling, and a carding machine, which are driven by a ſmall ſtream of water; they have alſo ſeveral hand jeanies. Upon account of ſome improvements made in the machinery, they have greater demands for their yarn, than others engaged in this branch of buſineſs: and if the war now raging, the failure of credit in general, the ſcarcity of money, or the increaſing value of that article, do not put a ſtop to this manufacture, a village begun nigh the above building will rapidly increaſe, and increaſe not only the population of this pariſh, but that of Kirkcudbright alſo. There are, properly ſpeaking, as yet no villages in this pariſh; for a few houſes built upon the military road below the church, and the begun village above mentioned, do not deſerve that name.

State of Property, Rents, &c.—More than the one half of the pariſh in value, though not in extent, belongs to the Earl of SELKIRK. His Lordſhip's rents, however, amount not to the one half at preſent. Eight of the proprietors, either farm the whole, or a part of their own lands. The average rent of the arable land, except three farms in the N. part, runs from

from 10s. to 1l. Sterling per acre. There are two farms let for grazing, without the liberty of plowing, for 1l. 1s. and 1l. 3s. Sterling per acre. Since 1763, the arable land yields above four times the rent it drew then: And one farm, belonging to the Earl of SELKIRK, yields 14 times the rent it paid in the year 1761; yet the rents are better paid, and the farmers live better, than they did at that period.

Cultivation, Incloſures, &c.—This is a country fully better calculated for grazing than for the plough, though it produces large crops when properly reſted and manured. Hence the beſt farmers have conſtantly in view the melioration of their graſs. Though ſenſible of the benefit of incloſures, and even willing to pay 7½d. *per cent per annum* of the money laid out upon them, very little as yet is effectually done in that way, owing to our ſtones being hurt by the action of the ſun and air, which makes the fences ſoon give way; our ground, interrupted by rocky and gravelly knolls, renders hedging and ditching ineffectual, unleſs a degree of labour, care, and attention be given them, which the farmer has neither time nor inclination to beſtow. The want of wood for coping expoſes the young thorns to the ravages of cattle; and a polled Galloway cow, if once ſhe can thruſt in her noſe, with ſhut eyes will force her way through a ſtrong hedge. To remedy theſe defects, Lord SELKIRK plants his hedges in a ſtone facing, and builds up the ſtones for coping and fencing. One thing is ſtill wanting; viz. that his Lordſhip ſhould agree with a gardener, or ſkilful workman, to keep his hedges in proper order, at ſo much per rood, the tenants paying the expence along with the rent; this he has already done with reſpect to clearing his eſtate of moles.

Manures.—The manures uſed are ſhell marl, ſea ſhells, water lathing, paring and burning the ſurface, and dung. Shell marl, as a manure in this part of Scotland, was firſt diſcovered and uſed in this pariſh, it being above 60 years ſince it was applied for that purpoſe. Of all manures, when the ground is gently uſed, and not worn out by the plough, it remains the longeſt; its effects are moſt conſpicuous upon the graſs, producing the different clovers, particularly the white, and graſſes of the beſt quality and kinds; and cauſing a great luxuriance in their growth, and deepneſs of green in their colour. The quantity laid upon an acre is from 40 to 60 cart loads, drawn by two horſes. There is ſtill a large quantity of this excellent manure in the pariſh, particularly in Lord SELKIRK's grounds. Sea ſhells are of two kinds; thoſe that are brought in by every tide, into the ſmall bay at the S. corner of the pariſh, and carted off at the ebb; and a pretty large bank running along the ſide bay, and beneath an arable field, called *dry land ſhells*. The firſt, wet with a conſiderable mixture of ſand, are heavier to lead, but ſpeedier in their effect. The quantity laid upon an acre of each is from 20 to 30 tons. Lime brought from England, and landed at the ſide of the Dee, or the Tarff, coſts the farmer 1s. Sterling, the Carlyſle buſhel of ſhells, equal to three Wincheſter buſhels. From 30 to 70 buſhels unſlacked are laid upon an acre. Leading a ſtream of water over the ſurface of a ley field with the plough or the ſpade, called *water-tathing*, prevailed very much formerly in this pariſh, before the uſe of the forementioned manures became ſo general, and produced excellent grain and graſs. It leaves the land hard bound, and unfit for the other manures, which produce little or no effect upon water-tathed land; and it cannot be repeated with any profit but at a conſiderable diſtance of time, except

upon

upon meadow and graſs grounds. Paring and burning is in general the worſt huſbandry, except upon a deep moſſy ſoil, with a clay bottom, when ſo much of the moſs is burnt as to allow the plough to reach the clay, and mingle it, moſs and aſhes together; then it produces luxuriant crops of grain and graſs. Dung, the principal manure in farming, is too little attended to in this country: The want of incloſures and ſtraw yards, moſt of the cattle lying out in winter, are all reaſons why ſo little attention is paid to this valuable article. What is collected is generally expended upon our third crop ground, in producing potatoes and a few turnips. One of the three firſt are generally laid on ley, or ground unbroken up; and if laid on at leaſt one year before it is plowed, they gradually ſink into the ground, mix with the roots of the graſs, are productive the firſt year, and do not ſo ſoon ſink out of the reach of the plough. Sometimes they are laid upon a fallow, and the author has known them laid in the month of May upon the ſpringing corn.

Ploughs, Crops, &c.—Our ploughs, light, drawn by two horſes, or three when old ley is broken up, without a driver, are moſtly of the Engliſh kind, with the Scotch head, which is found to anſwer beſt in ſtony ground. Though formerly the ox plough generally prevailed, yet it was totally laid aſide, till Lord DAER revived it, by uſing both oxen and heifers on a farm which he is improving in this pariſh. One of the three firſt kinds of manure above mentioned being laid upon the ground, it is ſown with oats the firſt two years. The third year dung being laid upon the field, if the farmer can procure this article, it is partly planted with potatoes, and ſown with turnips, and the reſt of the field either ſown with peaſe and beans, or left fallow. The fourth year, it is ſown with

barley, rye graſs, rib'd graſs, and the different clovers, cut for hay one year, and paſtured 8, then again broken up for corn. Wheat ſeldom turns out a profitable crop, owing to the wetneſs of our climate, and other cauſes.

Experiments tried with our rotten-ſtone quarries, where the three firſt kind of manures are not to be obtained, might have a happy effect. In many places remote from theſe artificial manures, moſs and turf are plenty. Kilns made of ſods or turf might be erected, and the half dried peats burnt to aſhes, at no great expence, which are well known to be an excellent manure for turnips, graſs and grain. There are different opinions, with reſpect to the quantity, to be laid upon an acre, of the manures of the firſt three claſſes mentioned; ſome thinking a ſmaller quantity, frequently repeated, beſt; others, a large quantity laid on at once, and not repeated for ſome conſiderable length of time. This depends in a good meaſure upon the ſoil, and upon the manner of cropping the land. When the ground is treated, as above mentioned, and is kept ſo long in paſture, the large quantities are, perhaps, beſt, as having the moſt effect upon the graſs; and as it is by fermentation theſe manures operate, ſuch a quantity, as will fully promote this, will be found neceſſary, while a ſmaller quantity will only produce a partial fermentation; as beer, not having a ſufficient quantity of yeſt, is always muddy, ſluggiſh and never clears.

Prices of Labour and Proviſions. A farm ſervant receives from 6l. to 9l. Sterling yearly, beſides lodging, waſhing, and food. A cottager's benefit, when converted into money, amounts to about 15l. Sterling yearly. A reaper in harveſt receives from 17s. to 1l. 5s. during the ſeaſon. A woman ſervant from 2l. to 4l. Sterling yearly. A day-labourer's

wages

wages are from 10d. and 1s. in winter, to 1s. and 1s. 6d. in ſummer, without victuals: A maſon's and joiner's per day, without meat 1s. 6d: A taylor's 8d. with victuals. The prices of all ſorts of proviſions frequently vary, and depend very much upon the Whitehaven, Liverpool, and Glaſgow markets, to which we have ready and eaſy acceſs by ſea.

Horſes and Black Cattle.—There are a good number of horſes bred in this pariſh, both for uſe and ſale. They are moſtly of the draught kind. The old breed of Galloways, ſo highly valued for ſpirit and ſhape, and which continued a long time after the wreck of the Spaniſh Armada, when ſeveral ſtallions were thrown upon this coaſt, is almoſt entirely, if not totally extinct. The price of our horſes is from 10l. to 30l. Sterling. Our cattle, ſo highly valued by the Norfolk farmers, are for the moſt part polled, long haired, ſhort and thick legged for their height, ſtraight backed, round bodied, well ſpread at the loins, and deep dew-lapped. Our calves ſuck their mothers; none are ſold to the butchers; the males are cut young, the females generally about one year old; and when cut, or *ſpayed*, they then with us obtain the name of *heifers*. At one year old, they will bring from 2l. to 5l. Sterling; at two they will bring from 4l. to 9l; at three from 6l to 10l. The beſt of our two-year-olds are almoſt always ſent with our three-year-olds to the Engliſh market. Our farmers cannot be too careful to preſerve this breed; for any trials to meliorate it by *croſſing* with other bulls, have hitherto failed. A gentleman in this country, who had a large dairy, remarkable for rearing the beſt cattle, and who kept and fed them till a proper age, when he ſent them with other cattle which he bought from his tenants, to the Engliſh market, to try an experiment,

periment, bought one of Mr *Bakewell's* bulls. He put the half of his cows to this, and the other half to a Moorland bull, bred upon his own eſtate. He fed the product equally, till they were ſent to market at Norfolk, when thoſe bred from the Galloway bull, brought conſiderably more money than the others, beſides being eaſier to feed.

Sheep and Wool.—Our Sheep are of five kinds. In the upper part of this pariſh, where there are two ſheep farms, the flocks are of two different kinds: the one, a ſmall ſheep, with flecked or ſprittle face and legs, and fine wool. This breed has been from time immemorial in the country. The other, black faced and black legged, with large coarſe wool, brought lately from the head of Nithſdale. The wool of the firſt kind ſells at from 8s. to 10s. per ſtone; the wool of the other at from 4s. to 6s. In the lower part of the pariſh, there is the long legged Engliſh *Mug*, with wool, long, fine, and fit for combing; and the broad ſhort legged, fine, ſhort woolled kind, called the *Culley* breed. There is a fifth breed, of the ſmall, white faced, ſhort fine woolled ſpecies, which differ in nothing from the Cheviot breed. The wool of theſe different kinds ſells at from 12s. to 16s. per ſtone: 28lb. Avoirdupois makes our ſtone of wool. Lord DAER, who, in many inſtances, has materially contributed to the advantage of this country, has introduced a breed from a Spaniſh ram in his poſſeſſion; but as yet, there has not been time to reap the benefit of this improvement.

Woods and Plantations.—The old timber found in our moſſes ſhows plainly, that woods had formerly abounded in this pariſh, though they are now entirely gone, except the above mentioned wood at the old Caſtle of Cumpſton. There are

ſome

ſome other ſmall plantations, in different parts. But, in a few years, the riſing grounds along the Dee ſide oppoſite to St. Mary's iſle will be covered with wood, Lord DAER having already planted with different kinds of trees a great many acres of ground, and deſigning to adorn Lord Selkirk's extenſive eſtate, in this and the neighbouring pariſhes, with ſcattered plantations. Wood, indeed, unleſs ſheltered from the W. or S. W. winds, does not thrive. Northern and Eaſtern expoſures are the beſt in this country, for planting every kind of trees.

Fuel.—Peats, turfs, and furze, or whins, were the general fuel of the inhabitants of this pariſh till lately. The moſſes in the lower part of the pariſh being exhauſted, and the improvement of the land having in a great meaſure baniſhed the furze, coals from Whitehaven, the duty being now taken of, are the fuel already uſed by a great number of the inhabitants of this part of the pariſh. The Northern part ſtill make uſe of peats and turfs, as the moſſes abound in that quarter. The coals are ſold for a guinea *per ton*, as it is called, though it conſiſts of 36 cwt.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church, which is placed exactly in the center of the pariſh, at the ſide of the military road, where three other roads meet, was built in the year 1730, and the manſe in 1763. The ſtipend is 59 l. 17s. 6d, all paid in money. The glebe conſiſts of near 30 acres, being the two glebes of Kirk-Chriſt and Twynehame joined together at the church. The Earl of Selkirk is patron.--There is an eſtabliſhed ſchool hard by the church; the number of ſcholars is about ſixty. If once a houſe was built, and other funds, provided for the ſchool-maſter, were ſettled, the living will

will be worth between 30 l. and 40 l. Sterling yearly.—The poor are liberally ſupplied by the weekly collections, and by the private charity of the inhabitants, who are oppreſſed by Iriſh beggars and other vagrants; owing to the military road, from the border of England, to Port-Patrick paſſing through the midſt of the pariſh. There is no ſunk money belonging to it.

Roads and Bridges.—In the year 1763, there were no good roads in this pariſh; a little after that period, the military road from the border of England to Port-Patrick was made, which paſſes through the midſt of the pariſh, and has contributed greatly to the improvement of the country. After this, a road was made to Kirkcudbright, by the bridge of Tongland, which parts from the military road at the church of Twyneholm, and another road from the military road at the Gatehouſe of Fleet to Kirkcudbright, by the ferry boat over the Dee, which paſſes through this pariſh. An Act of Parliament to convert the ſtatute labour, contributes in ſome meaſure to keep all theſe roads, except the military one, in repair. But the beſt directed roads in the pariſh, are two from the church of Twynehame, (the one to the ferry boat of Kirkcudbright, and the other to the bay at the extremity of the pariſh); and a third from the ferry along the ſide of the Dee, till it joins the latter one at the ſaid bay; opening an eaſy communication from Kirkcudbright to the pariſh of Borgue, and a ſpacious bay called *Balmangan Bay*. Theſe laſt mentioned roads were planned and directed by Lord Daer, and executed moſtly at his expence. As good roads are the firſt and moſt neceſſary improvement in any country, though much hath been done, yet there ſtill remains much to do, not only in this pariſh, but in every part of the country; and as

the

the converſion money at the preſent rate is totally inadequate, ſome other method muſt be adopted. Upon theſe accounts, the above mentioned noble perſon propoſed a bill to the county for their approbation, drawn up on the moſt liberal, and at the ſame time the moſt equal plan. Oppoſition was made to it through miſtake, through prejudice, and through party, and a clamour raiſed againſt it, which obliged it to be dropt for the preſent; but till ſome ſuch plan is adopted, our roads will go to ruin, and will never be conducted upon a liberal plan. The bridges are four; one over the Tarf, near the foot of that river, one over the Kirk-burn of Twyneholm, upon the military road nigh the church, and two others over ſmaller ſtreams.

Antiquities †.—There are the remains of two old buildings in this pariſh, both of them belonging to the Earl of Selkirk. The one, called *the Caſtle of Cumpſtone*, is placed in a pleaſant ſituation, nigh to the junction of the rivers Tarf and Dee, ſurrounded with a ſmall ſpot of natural wood, the only one indeed in the pariſh. The other old building is ſituated in the farm of Nuntown, oppoſite to St Mary's Iſle. There are two

† A gentleman who lived in this pariſh, and poſſeſſed an eſtate in it, and who died ſome years ago upwards of 80, acquainted the writer, that in the old burial place of Twyneholm, which was ſituated about a gun-ſhot from the preſent, nigh one of the doons, and not far from three of the moats, (but of which no veſtige now remains, it being part of a corn field,) there was turned up by labourers employed by him to remove part of an old fence, a round piece of gold which he ſuppoſed to be the handle of a coffin. This piece he ſent to Edinburgh, and received for it only three guineas, the perſon that bought it alledging that it was not gold; but, as he obſerved, if it had not been of that metal, the dealer would not have given ſo much.

Doons ‡, five moats, and a hill oppoſite to two of them, called the *Gallows-Hill*; but, as the figure, uſe, and deſign of theſe relicts of antiquity have been ſo often explained by others, a repetition here is unneceſſary.

Propoſed Improvements.—There is a creek at the ſide of the Dee, very nigh the manufacturing houſe formerly mentioned, that might eaſily be turned into a good harbour, ſheltered from every ſtorm. The adjacent field is commodious for wet and dry docks, ſuch as they have at Liverpool; the ſtream of water that drives the machinery would ſerve to clean them; ſpring tides 30 feet perpendicular; and there is at the ſame time conſiderably more than 17 feet of water upon the barr at the mouth of the river. A great road opened from the kirk of Twyneholm to the N. N. W. through an opening in the hill of Glengape, would give acceſs to manure landed in the Tarf or the Dee, for wild and barren grounds.

Diſadvantages.—The wetneſs of our climate, the ſcarcity of fuel, and no rock ſalt upon our coaſt, with other cauſes, render that neceſſary article at times ſcarce and dear. For theſe two years paſt, the ſcarcity of this article has been ſo great, about the term of Martinmas, as materially to hurt the ſale of our fat cattle. This might be eaſily remedied by allowing rock ſalt to be imported, or ſalt ready made from Liverpool, at the Scotch duties. One of theſe meaſures ought to be

‡ Some time ago, there was raiſed from beneath a heap of ſtones, not far from that ſpot, what appeared like a coffin made up of different ſtones, in which was found an inſtrument reſembling a hammer, and ſome coins; but of what metal the inſtrument was made, or where to be found, or of what kind the coins were, no information can now be obtained. There have been ſeveral coins found nigh to theſe moats, but none of them are preſerved.

be adopted, or ſmuggling will become general. The variety of *weights and meaſures*, which univerſally prevails both in England and Scotland, demands the attention of the Legiſlature. In London a ſtone weight of ſeveral commodities is 16 libs avoirdupoize; in Liverpool, or Whitehaven, the *ſame nominal quantity* of the ſame goods is only 14 lib. ditto; in Dumfries, or in that part of this county that lies upon the other ſide of the river Urr, a Scotch ſtone of any commodity is 24 libs; in New Galloway, which is in the ſame county, it is 26lb, and in all this part of the country round Kirkcudbright, it is 28 libs. ditto: In other places, only 22 libs. make the ſtone. Almoſt every county in England has its *buſhel*, and every county in Scotland its *peck*, all differing one from another. The Wincheſter buſhel is now generally uſed in this county, to meaſure all ſorts of grain; and an hundred weight of potatoes and a peck are the ſame.

Character and Manners.—The people in general are chearful, ſober, induſtrious, and humane; of an aſpiring and independent ſpirit. There are not at preſent above four men in the ſtation of ſervants, that were born and educated in this pariſh. Seventeen young men, if not more, within theſe few years, have gone to England, America, and the Weſt Indies, in the mercantile line; three to the ſea; beſides ſeveral families that emigrated before the commencement of the American war. Since the year 1763, there is a vaſt difference in the houſes, dreſs and manner of living. There were then only two houſes covered with ſlate; now there are about thirty. Engliſh broad cloth, and fancy veſts of cotton, are the dreſs of the men, when they go to church or market. Silk cloaks and bonnets, printed gowns, and cotton ſtockings, the dreſs of the women. In the year 1763, there

were only three families in which tea was occaſionally drunk. Now it is uſed in every family. In 1763, at Martinmas, there were not more than three beeves killed in the pariſh, our remoteneſs from public market making it neceſſary to ſalt proviſions for winter; now there are about forty, beſides a great many ſwine, a pig being kept and fed by almoſt every houſeholder, together with lamb and mutton in ſummer and harveſt; butcher meat, of one kind or another, making a great part of the diet of the farmers and their ſervants, which, perhaps, is cheaper upon the whole, than the low diet upon which they were formerly fed.

NUMBER

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF URQUHART,

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM GORDON, *Miniſter.*

Name, Extent, and Situation, &c.

THE etymology of the name cannot be aſcertained with preciſion. If it be of Gaelic extraction, ſome information may be received from thoſe quarters where that language is underſtood. There are other two pariſhes of the ſame name, the one a few miles from Inverneſs, and in that county; the other in Roſs-ſhire. This pariſh extends about 4 miles from E. to W. and 3 from N. to S; and lies at an equal diſtance from Elgin on the W. and the river Spey on the E; the poſt road paſſing along it on the S.

Surface, Sea Coaſt, Fuel, &c.—That part of the pariſh which lies to the N. W. is flat and low, riſing a few feet only above the level of the ſea, and has probably, at ſome former

mer period been covered by water, as there are evident marks of the ſea having receded from the coaſt: The reſt is a good deal more elevated, and of an unequal waving ſurface. The ſea coaſt, which is about 4 miles in extent, is low and ſandy; it contains no creek nor landing place of any kind. Our grain, which is our only article of exportation, is ſhipped from Speymouth or Loſsiemouth; and our great article of importation, which is coals, is imported at the ſame harbours; the former of which is at the diſtance of 4 miles, and the other of 6. It is proper here to mention, that this, as well as ſeveral other neighbouring pariſhes, was formerly ill ſupplied with fuel; but now, that article is rendered much leſs expenſive, by taking off the high duty on coals, that was laid on with little attention to political economy, and which has lately been aboliſhed by the exertions of a great ſtateſman; to whom this country is more obliged on account of that meaſure, and many others, than to any other native of this part of the united kingdom.

Climate, &c.—The air is dry and ſalubrious, and the people in general healthy; there are, however, few inſtances of remarkable longevity to be met with. The climate here, like that of all that narrow tract of land, which lies along the ſouth ſide of the Moray Firth, is mild and temperate to an extraordinary degree: Its ſuperiority, in that reſpect, over the high country, is moſt remarkable in the ſpring months. Often in that ſeaſon, while all the operations of husbandry are going forward in the low parts of Moray, there are many places in the high country, diſtant only a few miles, where theſe operations meet with a total interruption, from the in-

tenſeneſs

tenſeneſs of the froſts, and from deep falls of ſnow. * Our winters likewiſe, in general, are ſo open, that ſeveral plants commonly ranked amongſt the hot-houſe diviſion, ſtand throughout that ſeaſon in the gardens of Innes, expoſed to the open air, and loſe little of their verdure.

Soil and Cultivation, &c.—The ſoil is various, and, though in general light and ſandy, is of a kindly and fertile nature, exceedingly well adapted for raiſing turnips, potatoes, barley, and all kinds of artificial graſſes. And a conſiderable part of it would be extremely fit for wheat, if there were any opportunity of procuring ſufficient quantities of manure. Notwithſtanding the mildneſs of the climate, and the kindlineſs of the ſoil, agriculture has made but ſlow advances. Some patches of turnips are indeed to be ſeen, and a few acres are ſown with graſs ſeeds; but the fields in general are rather in a ſtate of bad cultivation. This ſeems to be occaſioned, in a great meaſure, by the expence and difficulty of conſtructing ſufficient incloſures; there being no ſtone quarries in the pariſh, nor any ſtones in the fields fit for this purpoſe; and thorn hedges are ſo long of coming to perfection, and ſo difficult to be fenced when they are young, that no tenant, on a leaſe of ordinary endurance, can attempt them with any proſpect

* It may likewiſe be obſerved, as a farther proof of the excellency of this climate, that in the end of the laſt, and beginning of the preſent century, while there was ſo great a deficiency in the crops, in many parts of Scotland, as bordered on a famine, owing to the cold and wet ſeaſons; in Moray, at that period, the land was ſo productive, as not only to ſupply its own inhabitants, but alſo to ſpare conſiderable quantities of grain for the ſubſiſtence of their neighbours. And it is a fact well aſcertained, that in thoſe years of ſcarcity and dearth, people came from the ſhire of Angus, to purchaſe oat meal in this country, for which they paid at the rate of 30 s. *per* boll.

proſpect of ſucceſs. The farms alſo are of too ſmall extent for carrying on any ſubſtantial improvements in agriculture. There are a few that may contain from 60 to 100 acres; but the common run is from 20 to 30.

Farm Rents and Ploughs, &c.—The rent of land varies according to the nature of the ſoil; there are ſome fields let for 20s. *per* acre, while others are below 10s.; the average rent may be from 10s. to 15s. The ploughs, of which there are above 100, ſome of Engliſh, ſome of Scotch conſtruction, are drawn chiefly by a pair of horſes. In this branch of farming, an improvement has been introduced about 20 years ago, which now begins to be pretty generally adopted; that is, plowing with two oxen, harneſſed in the ſame manner as horſes. This method is warmly recommended, and the advantages of it fully explained by the late Lord KAIMES, in his book called *The Gentleman Farmer*.

Produce, Exports, &c. The produce of this pariſh, conſiſts principally of barley and oats; beſides ſupplying the inhabitants, it exports annually a conſiderable quantity of grain; which muſt increaſe yearly, partly by the increaſing improvements of agriculture, but chiefly by the uſe of potatoes, which are now almoſt univerſally cultivated, and during a great part of the year, are, in a manner, the principal ſubſiſtence of a conſiderable number of the inhabitants. This food, which at firſt was not in general uſe, becomes more and more ſo every day, from the various modes that have been diſcovered of dreſſing it, by different ſeaſonings, at little or no expence. They make an excellent diſh with milk, but above all with onions, which are raiſed in abundance in this county, and ſold at ſuch a moderate price, as to come within the reach of the pooreſt inhabitant.

State

State of Property, Plantations, &c.—Four fifths of this parish are the property of the Earl of FIFE *, whose plantations are executed with uncommon taste and judgement, and add much to the beauty and ornament of the country. In some places, he has planted moors and hills of great extent, but what makes the most beautiful appearance, is a number of little rising grounds, all of which he has covered with singular good taste, and so as to make their appearance with relation to each other extremely beautiful. In all these plantations, the Scotch fir at present predominates; but his Lordship every year causes a great many of these to be cut down, and the voids to be filled up with beech, oak and other deciduous trees §. Besides these plantations, Lord FIFE has planted hedges, and hedge rows in particular places along the high ways, that shew much fancy, and will afford considerable utility and warmth; the hedge rows, before they were planted, were pollards of a considerable size, and are thriving exceedingly well. A small plantation, at the place where the road to the house of Innes leaves the high road, two miles east of Elgin, from the beauty of its lines, must strike every traveller, and the hedge rows are continued a considerable length along the high road. In mentioning the high road, it is but justice to Lord FIFE to let it be known,

* About 26 years ago, his Lordship purchased the estate of Innes; and being at that time proprietor of considerable estates in the adjacent parishes; the estate of Innes, and the lands of Urquhart, lately acquired by an exchange with the family of Gordon, he became possessed of so large a tract of property all contiguous, and comprehending a great variety of ground, that he has been enabled to execute plantations of very large extent.

§ Previous to the year 1779, at which period about one half of these plantations were formed, there were always planted in each acre 3000 Scotch firs: Since that time the proportion has only been 1200 to each acre.

that ſince he became proprietor of Innes, all the highways within the pariſh have been properly attended to, judiciouſly directed, and, by a regular application of the ſtatute labour, kept in a ſtate of good repair †. The only other heritor is Mr Innes of Leuchars ‡, who has about one fifth of the real rent of the pariſh. He is at uncommon pains to raiſe and fence hedges; he has planted ſtripes and belts about the ground round his houſe to a very conſiderable extent, beſides ſeveral clumps ſimilar to thoſe executed by Lord Fife. Theſe clumps, like his Lordſhip's, at preſent conſiſt chiefly of Scotch firs; but the plantations around his farm, and about his houſe, are all deciduous trees of the beſt kinds; oak, aſh, and witch elm, with a proper mixture of larix, which are all uncommonly well preſerved, beſides being kept under the hoe for ſeveral years after they are planted. The water of Loſſy runs through the property of this gentleman; that river ſwells ſometimes to a great height, and frequently flooded the low ground on each ſide; but of late, with great induſtry and merit, embankments have been conſtructed, that will contain the river, and in a great meaſure prevent future inundations: By this circumſtance the value of his lands is conſiderably raiſed.

Lakes,

† The houſe of Innes, one of Lord Fife's numerous ſeats, had been many years ago partly deſtroyed by accidental fire. Since his Lordſhip became its poſſeſſor, it has been repaired at a very conſiderable expence, and fitted up in the moſt faſhionable ſtile; a large addition has been made to the gardens, and the grounds about the houſe have been laid out in the beſt taſte; the whole makes now one of the moſt pleaſant and elegant places of reſidence in the North.

‡ Before Mr Innes ſucceeded to this eſtate, it had been in the poſſeſſion of a gentleman who paid very little attention to improvements of any kind. Since the preſent gentleman became proprietor, it has undergone a very great alteration to the better.

Lakes, Fiſh, Water Fowls, &c.—There is one lake in this pariſh called the *Loch of Cotts*. Pike is the only fiſh it contains: In winter it is frequented by a conſiderable number of ſwans, and, in the ſpring and autumn, by flocks of geeſe, ducks, and other water fowls. At the upper part of the pariſh, there is another lake called *Lochnabeau*, partly in this pariſh, and partly in Lhanbryd. Lochnabeau is in the middle of what was formerly an extenſive bare moor; about 20 years ago Lord FIFE planted the moor, and particularly carried his plantations round the verge of the lake. Theſe plantations are now far advanced, and by their vicinity to the water, which is uncommonly limpid and clear, form a moſt beautiful and delightful ſcene.

Stags.—This improvement, however, has been attended with one inconvenience. In ſome ſevere winters, ſeveral years ago, a few ſtags and hinds came down to the low country from the Duke of Gordon's foreſts of Glenfiddich and Glenavon; of late years they have taken up their reſidence in the neighbourhood of Lochnabeau, and the plantations around it, and are become ſo fond of their new habitation, that they have never returned to their native foreſts; on the contrary, they increaſe every year, by breeding, and by the addition of freſh emigrants. Theſe animals make a very fine appearance, and afford much pleaſure and amuſement to the ſportſman; it is therefore to be regretted that they are ſo hurtful to plantations and agriculture. Throughout the ſummer, they paſture in the night time on the corns; in the winter on turnips; and in the ſpring, as the winter crops of rye and wheat are then fartheſt advanced, they are particularly deſtructive to them; but the ſtems of potatoes ſeem to be their favourite food, as they are known to paſs through fields of corn in order to brouſe on them. Upon the whole, it were

much to be wiſhed, that they were either driven back to their antient habitation, or utterly exterminated. The laſt meaſure has been ſucceſsfully followed by a worthy nobleman in the weſtern part of this county, celebrated for his extenſive and flouriſhing plantations, who kept hounds for the ſole purpoſe of extirpating thoſe deſtructive animals. I need hardly ſay that the nobleman I mean is the Earl of MORAY. If theſe plantations have attracted the deer to this corner, it has been remarked that they have not been favourable to the increaſe of hares and patridges: this may be owing to the protection which they afford to beaſts and birds of prey. Were gentleman to give ſmall premiums for the deſtruction of theſe vermin, it would prove more effectual in preſerving the game and increaſing its numbers, than all the game laws that ever were, or ever will be enacted.

Church, School, and Poor.—The preſent incumbent, who is a bachelor, had his preſentation from the Duke of Gordon; but the patronage of the church has ſince been conveyed to the Earl of Fife, at the time that the exchange of lands took place between his Lordſhip and the family of Gordon. The ſtipend, by a decree obtained February 1793, is 8 chalders victual and 40l. Sterling, including 5l. for communion elements. The glebe conſiſts of 5 Scotch acres. Some years ago, the miniſter entered into a contract with the heritors, for keeping the manſe and offices in repair during his incumbency, for which he receives an annuity of 15l. Sterling, beſides 30l. paid per advance. The church was completely repaired about 18 years ago.—A new ſchool-houſe was then built; the ſchool-maſter's ſalary is 12 bolls of oat meal, and 6 bolls of barley.—The average number of poor in this pariſh is about 20. The funds for their ſupport ariſe from the weekly collections at church, which amount to 10l. yearly

yearly, together with ſome mortifications that produce 2l. 11s. 4d. of annual intereſt.

Population.—The number of inhabitants has decreaſed within theſe 40 years, as appears from the following ſtatement:

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF URQUHART.

No. of ſouls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter, -	1110
Ditto, in 1793, males 506, females 544. - -	1050
Decreaſe	60
Annual average of baptiſms, - -	30

CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.			
Proprietors, -	2	Diſſenters† from the Eſtabliſhed Church, - -	20
Miniſter, - -	1	LIVE STOCK, RENTS, &c.	
School-maſter, -	1	Horſes, - -	310
Gardeners, - -	6	Black Cattle, -	900
Smiths, - -	3	Sheep, § -	1570
Tailors, - -	5	Valued rent in Scotch money, -	L. 5567 : 15 : 6
Joiners, - -	6	Real ditto in Sterling, about	1800 : 0 : 0
Maſons, - -	6	No. of acres, planted by the Earl of Fife, -	2478
Weavers, - -	6	——— Deciduous trees,	230,835
Shoemakers, - -	3		
Millers, - -	5		
Ale and ſpirit dealers, -	8		

Manner of Living.—Though the progreſs of agriculture has not been ſo rapid as might be wiſhed, the increaſing comfort of the people is very obſervable. Within theſe 20 years, a great

† Theſe conſiſt chiefly of Seceders, of the Antiburgher perſuaſion.

§ Since the moors were planted, the number of the ſheep has conſiderably decreaſed, there having been formerly in the pariſh more than double the above number. The farmers are every day becoming more reconciled to the want of theſe animals, which cannot be kept with any advantage in an improving country, without ſufficient incloſures.

a great difference to the better may be remarked in their clothing, their cleanliness, and every other circumstance that tends to make life more agreeable. Their habitations have likewise been very much improved; within less than the period above mentioned, there have been upwards of 50 neat farm houses built in this parish, either by the landlord or the tenant.

Character.—Though the number of ale-houses, mentioned in the table, may, at first appearance, seem to bear hard upon the sobriety of the people, it is to be remarked, that only two of these houses retail any considerable quantity of ale or whisky. The people in general are very sober, and diligent in their several occupations; their efforts of industry being as well directed as their situation and circumstances will permit.

Antiquities.—The site of the old priory ¶ has lately been converted into an arable field; and the name of *Abbey-well*, which the country people still give to the fountain that supplied the Monks with water, is the only memorial of it that now remains.

Proposed

¶ In the 11th century, the whole of this parish was King's property. As early as the year 1125, a priory, dependent on the Abbey of Dunfermline, was erected at Urquhart. It was very liberally endowed; all the lands now called the Lordship of Urquhart, the lands of Fochabers, as well as several others in this county, together with a part of the fishing on Spey, appertained to it. It appears that about the year 1345, this cell, as well as that of Pluscardene fell into disorder; and the Roman Pontiff having commissioned the bishops of Scotland, to enquire into those irregularities, it was soon after separated from Dunfermline, and conjoined to Pluscardene, with which it continued united till the Reformation. At and before that period, the priors began to feu out the lands, reserving only in their own possession the manor places and mills; the revenue which by that method they drew from thence, if we take into the account the teinds, multures, and services, would even at this day

Propoſed Bridge.—This account ought not to be concluded, without mentioning the ſatisfaction entertained in this pariſh, and the reſt of the country, at the late proſpect there was of a BRIDGE acroſs the Spey. At preſent the ferry is extremely troubleſome, attended with ſome danger, and neceſſarily very expenſive to travellers. If there were a bridge thrown acroſs that river, the commerce and intercourſe of the country would be very much increaſed; travelling would be rendered much more eaſy and comfortable; and, above all, it would be ſingularly uſeful for the march of the King's troops; this, in the winter, being the only road by which they can paſs either South or North. For theſe reaſons it is univerſally hoped, that meaſures for a bridge acroſs the Spey, which have been begun, and generouſly promoted, by a moſt illuſtrious family ‡ in the neighbourhood, will be taken up by government, and aided by the ſubſcription of every perſon

day be nearly adequate to a moderate rent. The priory was ſituated a little to the eaſt of the preſent church, in the midſt of a moraſs, and probably went to ruin ſoon after its union with Pluſcardene. In the year 1564, the greater part of the materials were carried off to build a granary near the ſhore at Garmouth; the remainder, ſoon after that period, was employed in repairing the manſe, and incloſing the church-yard.

In the year 1160, the *Moravienſes*, or inhabitants of Moray, (for what cauſe is not now known) took up arms; they were met in the moors of Urquhart by the King's army, which was ſent to quell the inſurrection, and, as we learn from ſome of our hiſtorians, were, after an obſtinate reſiſtance, defeated there with great ſlaughter. As the inhabitants of Moray were at that period, according to Buchannan, of a reſtleſs and turbulent diſpoſition, all the families engaged in this rebellion were diſperſed through the different provinces of Scotland. It is ſaid that thoſe who were then removed into the Northern Counties, received the name of SUTHERLAND, which their deſcendents ſtill retain, and that thoſe who were ſent to the South, aſſumed the ſirname of MURRAY, which they likewiſe have tranſmitted to their poſterity.

‡ The family of GORDON.

ſon who wiſhes well to his country. A great part of the ſaid road, from that to Elgin, will, in a ſhort time, be bounded with wood on each ſide. The large plantations of his Grace the Duke of Gordon begin where Lord Fife's end, and are likely to be continued Eaſt-ward to the river ſide.

NUMBER

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF OYNE.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF GARIOCH.)

By the Rev. MR ALEXANDER CUSHNY, *Miniſter.*

Name, Form, Extent, Rivers, and Fiſh.

THE origin of the name of this pariſh is unknown. It is commonly pronounced *Een.* Its extent varies from 3 to 4 miles in breadth and length, and its form is very irregular. The river *Don* divides it from Monymuſk on the South. The rivers *Ury* and *Shevock* bound it on the North and N. E. And the ſmall river *Gady* runs into the Ury at the Eaſtern extremity of the pariſh. The Ury and the Gady produce eels and trouts, but there are no ſalmon found in theſe ſmall rivers, except in the ſpawning ſeaſon.

Soil, Cultivation and Roads.--The ſoil of the greater part of this pariſh is, in general, extremely fertile. The lands near the church are very rich and early; the harveſt commonly begins eight days ſooner here than in any of the neighbouring pariſhes. A ſmall part of the pariſh lies South of the high

mountain of Benochie, and the lands there are neither ſo early nor ſo fruitful as thoſe on the North ſide. The new plan of farming is gaining ground here, but very ſlowly, and is far from being general. This perhaps is owing in ſome meaſure to the farmers being attached to the old huſbandry, but more to their being at a great diſtance from the means of improvement, and to the roads being exceedingly bad.

Propoſed Canals.—A canal from Aberdeen to Inverury along the ſouth ſide of the Don, and another from Inverury to Old Rayne, is at preſent projected. If theſe public ſpirited enterpriſes ſucceed, they will be of very great importance to the diſtrict of Garioch, whatever profits the firſt ſupporters of the ſcheme may derive from the undertaking. Before lime and marle were uſed in agriculture, the lands in this pariſh, and in the whole diſtrict, were conſidered as the beſt lands in the county, and the Garioch was commonly called *the Granary* of Aberdeen. But of late years the pariſhes on the ſea coaſt, which were not naturally ſo fertile, have been more improved; and this diſtrict, for which nature had done ſo much, has received but little aſſiſtance from art. But if the canals take place, it is probable, that the diſtrict of the Garioch will become one of the moſt fertile and moſt valuable diſtricts in Scotland.

Obſtructions to Improvement.—The farmers are in general not opulent. The leaſes are too ſhort: And very high *multures* at the mills are a great bar to agriculture, in this and ſeveral other neighbouring pariſhes. In this pariſh the eleventh peck of corns ground at the mill is ſometimes paid; and commonly the thirteenth peck is paid for multures and ſervices. One of the heritors in this pariſh propoſes to take off the multures

multures, and it is hoped he will be imitated by the other proprietors in the neighbourhood.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The air, in general, is pure and very healthy, and few epidemical diſeaſes prevail. The rheumatiſm is the moſt common diſorder, which, in this diſtrict, is felt more by people of better ſtation, than by the poorer ſort of people.

Foreſt and Fruit Trees.—There is a great number of large aſh, plane, beech, birch, elm, oak, pine, fir, walnut and cheſnut trees, all above 60 years old, near the houſe of Weſthall. There is likewiſe a very great number of apple, pear, cherry, geen and plumb trees, which, though much neglected for theſe 40 years, commonly bear fruit. There are ſome very large old Scotch firs near the houſe,* and, half a mile diſtance from it, there are two thriving plantations of young Scotch firs.

There is likewiſe a large plantation of Scotch firs on that part of the eſtate of Pittodry, which lies in this pariſh. At Tillyfour there is a conſiderable number of fruit and other kinds of trees, beſides two large plantations; the one of Scotch firs, and the other of hazel. It is a moſt beautiful romantic place, and a very pleaſant ſummer ſeat.

Population.

* Mr JOHN HORN, Advocate, about 90 years ago, beautified this place very much with ſeveral plantations of firs, which throve ſo well, that it is ſaid he himſelf was buried in a coffin, made out of a fir tree of his own planting. He likewiſe made out a fine avenue from the entry of his houſe, which at laſt aſcends a pretty little green hill, on the top of which he built a ſmall lodge, of two rooms, and called it PARNASSUS. He ornamented his ſeat with a great number of pleaſure walks, with ſtatues in them, which ſhow a great deal of taſte, conſidering how long it is ſince theſe walks were laid out.

Population.—The population, at present, is nearly the same that it was 40 years ago. The number of the males and females is almost equal.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF OYNE ‡.

No. of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster, - -	640
Ditto in 1793, - - -	630
Decrease	10

CONDITIONS and PROFESSIONS, &c.		STOCK, RENTS, &c.			
No. of Proprietors *, -	3	No. of Black cattle, -	600		
—— Ministers, -	1	—— Horses, -	150		
—— School-masters, -	1	—— Sheep, -	1000		
—— Scholars in summer, about	20	—— Carts, -	50		
—— Ditto in winter, -	30	—— Ploughs, -	46		
—— Episcopalians, -	14	—— Corn mills, -	5		
—— Members of the Established Church, -	616	Valued rent, Scotch	L. 2300	10	4
		Real ditto, Sterling, about	1000	0	0
—— Wrights, -	5	Rent of 1 farm per annum,	80	0	0
—— Weavers, -	3	Ditto of another,	40	0	0
—— Wheel-wrights, -	2	Ditto of 5 or 6 others,	34	0	0
—— Tailors, -	1	Ditto of the rest, from 4l. to	24	0	0
—— Smiths, -	4	Average rent of in-field ground per acre, from 15s. to -	1	0	0
—— Merchants, -	2				
—— Masons, -	1				
—— Shoe-makers, -	5	Ditto of out-field, 5s. to	0	10	0

Manufactures.—Most of the women in this district are employed in knitting stockings, and very few in spinning at the

‡ The principal enumerations and calculations in this table were made up at Whitsunday 1793.

* None of these gentlemen reside in the parish. About 80 years ago, there were 12 proprietors.

the lint wheel. The ſtocking manufacture brings in from 300l. to 400 l. a year, according to the price of ſtockings, which varies.

Fuel.—The fuel is peats and turfs from *Benochie.*—There are 4 or 5 pariſhes which get their fuel from this high mountain. Men and horſes are employed at leaſt 2 months in ſummer in providing this fuel. It is wiſhed the canal may take place, and then all theſe inconveniences will be obviated.

Church, School, and Poor.—The ſtipend was formerly 3 chalders of meal, 1 of bear, and 32 l. 15s. in money. An augmentation was obtained two months ago, (March 1794:) The manſe was built in 1717; but there is no record of the time when the church was built. Both are nearly in a ruinous ſtate. Colonel Knight of Pittodry is patron.—There is only one ſchool in the pariſh. The ſchool-maſter's ſalary is 11 l. 2s. 6; but he has neither houſe nor garden belonging to the office.—There are at preſent on the poor's roll 9 families, who get regular, but ſcanty ſupplies. There are no funds but 20 l. Sterling; the intereſt of this ſum, and the collections in the church, throughout the year, will not exceed 7 l. 10 s.

Character and Antiquities.—The people, in general, are regular and induſtrious, and moſtly employed in farming. There is not one ale-houſe in the pariſh.—The only antiquities in this diſtrict are two Druidical temples.

NUMBER

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF RAYNE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF GARIOCH.)

By the Rev Mr PATRICK DAVIDSON, *Minister.*

Situation, Form, Extent and Surface.

THE parish of Rayne is situated in that district of the county of Aberdeen, called *Garioch*, anciently *Garvioch*. The church, built in 1789, for 360 l. Sterling, lies 23 English miles north from Aberdeen, and 9 from Inverury; and the road from Aberdeen to Huntly passes through Old Rain, a post town on the Southern extremity of the parish. The river Urie divides it on the S. W. from the parish of Oyne. The figure of the parish is nearly a square, each side of which is about two miles, and the church is very centrical. There is a hill upon the north side of the parish covered with heath and hard weeds; and the rest of the parish is pretty flat, with a few gently rising spots.

Soil

Soil and Cultivation.—The in-field ſoil is generally a rich loam, with a clay bottom; and, when well managed, produces good crops. The preſent miniſter has often had a return, after a crop of turnips, of 14 bolls of good bear, upon an acre ſowed with ten pecks. The out-field, which conſtitutes more than two thirds of the arable ground, is generally of a light loamy ſoil, and, when dunged and limed, produces grain of a ſharper and better quality, than the in-field. The large farms, which are very few, are plowed by oxen, of 8 or 10 in a plough. But the greateſt part of the pariſh conſiſts of crofts, or ſmall holdings, plowed by two horſes, and ſometimes two horſes and two cows, and that very imperfectly. The tenants are at no pains to clean their grounds of a great deal of weeds, ſuch as *runches* or wild muſtard, knot-graſs, couch-graſs, and wild oats. Indeed there are too many ſmall crofts; and the occupiers of them are ſo poor, that their cattle have not ſtrength enough to plow and dreſs them properly. As there is plenty of peat moſs, which moſt of the pariſhioners have a right to, the proprietors have by this means broken down the poſſeſſions, and raiſed their rents; but this has been a bar to the improvement of the ground. A better mode of farming, however, has of late got in among ſome of the tenants, who bring lime from Aberdeen, and lay down an acre with turnips yearly, and the year after ſow it with bear, and red clover and rye-graſs ſeeds. They already ſee the great advantage of theſe little improvements, and they will doubtleſs ſoon extend them farther; and others will be led to follow their example. Their great diſtance from lime or manure of any kind is no ſmall obſtacle to improvement.

Produce, Seaſons and Wages.—The principal grain raiſed in the pariſh is bear and oats; of the in-field, generally one third

third is bear and two thirds are oats. Every tenant plants as many potatoes as ſerves his own family, and ſometimes a few more, which are ſold at 6d. the peck of 16 lib. weight; but there is little demand for that article. We generally ſow our oats about the middle of April, and our bear from the beginning to the middle of May. Our potatoes are planted about the beginning of May. In an ordinary year, our bear is ripe by the 20th of Auguſt, and our oats by the firſt week of September. We have very few labourers. A man ſervant's wages is from 6 l. to 8 l. a year; and a maid ſervant's from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. Sterling.

Fuel and Plantations.—On the N. E. ſide of the pariſh there is an extenſive peat moſs, which affords excellent fuel, though it conſumes a great deal of the farmer's time in caſting, drying, and bringing home his peats, and which might be applied with more profit to the other purpoſes of agriculture. This moſs ſeems once to have been covered with oak, alder, and hazle trees; as oak trees of a large ſize are ſtill found at a great depth, and ſo freſh as to be of ſome uſe. There are at preſent but a few acres planted with trees in the pariſh, and theſe are the common Scotch firs. There are alſo a few aſh, elm, and plane trees, on different ſpots of ground.

Minerals, Roads and Wild Quadrupeds.—Such ſtones as are in the pariſh are of the hard iron kind, but they are eaſily blown with gun powder, and dreſſed for building. Our roads are kept in tolerable repair. As there is a great deal of broom in the out-fields, hares are very common, and there are alſo ſome polecats and foxes.

Climate.—The air is dry and remarkably wholeſome, as the whole county of Garioch is, and many of the people live to

a great age. Rayne lies in an open country, having one ridge of hills to the S. W. and another to the N. E. The dryneſs of the air is owing to this local ſituation of the pariſh. The clouds are attracted by theſe ridges of hills on each ſide, and fogs often reſt upon the tops of them, while the inhabitants enjoy a clear and dry air in the open country. Sometimes again, when the clouds break into rain on the hills, or on the ſides of the hills, the ſkirts only of the ſhower reach us in the open country.

Diſeaſes.—We have no epidemical diſeaſes.—In ſpring and autumn ſome fevers appear among the poor people, who live upon a low diet. Theſe are generally of the nervous kind; but when the patients apply timeouſly for medical aſſiſtance, the fever often gives way to wine and bark, and good attention to air and cleanlineſs. We have many ſlight ſore throats, that are relieved by bliſtering and gargling. Many of the pariſhioners are ſubject to ſcurvy, and other cutaneous diſorders, which appear upon their faces, hands and legs. This perhaps ariſes from the poorneſs of their food, conſiſting of pottage, broſe and ſowens, oat-meal cakes, kail, potatoes, turnips and milk. They uſe little ale, and that not of a good quality. But the moſt fatal diſeaſe is *pneumonia*, or conſumption, which cuts off 7 or 8 young people every year. And what is very melancholy, there are at preſent more than 20 perſons afflicted with real ſcrophula, and the number of ſuch has increaſed of late; while the pariſhioners intermarry with one another, they never pay attention to this matter. Religious prejudices againſt inoculation for the ſmall-pox are wearing away, and the practice of inoculating children is getting in. But till it univerſally prevail in a country like this, it will not be a real bleſſing. The infection is communicated from the inoculated to the children of thoſe who

ſtill retain their old prejudices; and thus we have the ſmall-pox raging every year in a place where, (as the writer hereof remembers,) about 30 years ago, the diſtemper uſed to come about only once in 4 or 5 years. Among the female ſex, who are moſtly employed in the ſedentary work of knitting ſtockings for the Dutch market, chronic or low hyſteric complaints are very common.

Population.—The population of this pariſh has been almoſt ſtationary theſe many years, though there is a ſmall increaſe on the whole, ſince the return made to Dr Webſter, as appears from the following table.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF RAYNE.

No. of ſouls in 1755, -	1131		
——— in 1760, -	1143	Increaſe in 5 years,	12
——— in 1794,	1173	Ditto in 34 years,	30
			—
		Total increaſe within theſe 40 years	42
SEXES, BIRTHS, &c.		Annual average of Births, -	24
No. of males, -	522	——— ——— Marriages,	10
——— Females, -	651	——— ——— Deaths	17
	———	No. of Epiſcopalians, -	60
Majority of the latter	129	Members of the Eſtabliſhed Church, - -	1113
AGES.			
Perſons under 10 years of age		-	148
——Between 10 and 20		- -	159
——— 20 and 30		- -	218
——— 30 and 40		-	204
——— 40 and 50			225
——— 50 and 60			138
——— 60 and 70		-	44
——— 70 and 80		-	35
——— 80 and 90		-	1
——Aged ——— 93		-	1
			—
		In all	1173

Manufactures.—

Manufacture.—The only manufacture is the knitting of ſtockings, in which all the women are employed, and ſome of the boys and even ld men. It is ſuppoſed, that this article may yield to the pariſh about 400l. Sterling. The hoſe are of that coarſe kind, which bring for working the pair 12 or 14 pence Sterling; and ſome of the women will knit two pairs, or two pairs and a half in the week. If it were not for this laſt article, the rents of the ſmall crofts could not be paid, as the crofters have no other way of earning money, but by annually rearing a young ox or cow.

Exports and Cattle.—There is annually about 200 bolls of meal carried out of this pariſh to the Aberdeen market; and, as nearly as can be found, 180 cattle, young and old, bought up and driven to the ſouth country, by dealers in that article, worth at an average 3l. a head. There are very few horſes reared, and not above 200 ſheep kept in the pariſh.

Proprietors, Rents, &c.—The groſs rent of the whole pariſh in money, and meal at 10s. per boll, is about 1300l. Sterling, and the valued rent 2544l. Scotch. The proprietors are Alexander Leith of Freefield, James Horn Elphinſtone of Logie, John Forbes of Blackford, Alexander Leſlie of Wartle, and Alexander Stewart of Loanhead, Eſquires. The medium rent of the in-field is 20s. Sterling per acre. There is meal paid for the out-fields, at the rate of from 2s. to 8s. or 9s. the acre. Some of the ſmall crofts are rented as high as 30s. per acre.

Church, and School.—The preſent ſtipend is 42l. Sterling, 32 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of bear; but a proceſs of augmentation is in dependence. The manſe was built in 1751 for 1000l. Scotch. The ſchool-houſe was lately built

for 16l. Sterling, and the ſchool-maſter's ſalary is but eight bolls of meal. The heritors in general are averſe to the giving of a legal ſalary.

Poor.—The average number of poor that receive alms is from 15 to 20. The annual ſum expended for their relief is about 20l. Sterling, which is all produced by the collections in the church on Sundays, excepting the intereſt of 90l. Sterling appropriated to them. Theſe 15 or 20 perſons live in houſes of their own, and there is not one in the pariſh that begs from door to door. Notwithſtanding this, we are much troubled with beggars, eſpecially from the Highlands in ſummer, when we muſt ſometimes ſerve half a dozen of them in one day.

Obſtacles to Improvement.—There are here, as in the neighbouring pariſhes, great bars to improvement. The lime is diſtant 23 miles. Many of the tenants have no leaſes. Since 1782, ſome have fallen a little in arrears with their rents, and ſeem to want that ſenſe of ſecurity which ſtimulates induſtry. When a poſſeſſion is vacant, there is not always the proper diſtinction made between a good and ſubſtantial tenant, and one who promiſes a great rent, but often fails to pay it.

Mills, Multures, Services, &c.—There are five mills in the pariſh. At firſt the conſtruction of a mill was a work of ingenuity, and the proprietor obliged his tenants to grind all their corn at his mill. But it requires no great genius now-a-days, to conſtruct a mill. The tenants pay thirlage, and are reſtricted to a particular mill. This ſometimes amounts to the 17th peck. They pay alſo multures, or the price of grinding, which is often the 32d peck. They pay alſo to the

the miller a *lick* of *goodwill*, or a *bannock*, which tenants have ſometimes allowed to be meaſured; and there are inſtances where another *unmeaſured lick* has crept in. Even the *ſeeds* ſifted from the bannock are ſometimes paid. When all theſe *items* are added together, they amount at ſome mills to a twelfth or eleventh part of the whole corn carried to the mill. This is a ſevere tax upon the induſtry of an improving tenant. Sometimes too the corn that grows on farms thirled to a mill, is obliged to pay *multure*, whether the corn be ground at that mill or not. Except the expence of grinding, all thirlage ſhould be commuted to the tenant, in order that he may reap the benefit of his own induſtry. But we have one inſtance here where even this is prevented, the tenants of one eſtate being thirled to the mill of another. Another abſurdity is, that *ſhillen*, *i. e.* ſhealing, or hulter corn, is meaſured by the tackſman of the mill, and is paid, not in ſhealing, but in meal. There are accordingly great complaints that the corn is not well ſhealed. Another evil is, that there is a *mill peck*, which generally holds as much ſhealing as will grind to three and ſometimes four pecks of meal. For the ſhealing of the ſtock, the tenant pays meal meaſured with a *cog*, or wooden diſh, that pays for a certain quantity of ſhealing. There is alſo another cog for ſmall quantities of ſhealing. And if all theſe meaſures were accurately fixed and proportioned, there would be leſs injuſtice; but that is not the caſe. The multurer is allowed to mend them or make them anew, or alter them as he pleaſes. There ought to be a book kept by the proprietor of the mill, and ſigned by him and the multurer, and the principal tenants, in order to aſcertain the exact contents of theſe ſeveral meaſures. We have alſo ſome *Gothic* ſervices done by the tenants, that ought to be aboliſhed, ſuch as reaping, earing, plowing,

ing, harrowing, driving out dung, and bringing home lime and other articles to the landlord *gratis*.

Antiquities and Character.—We have no antiquities, excepting two Druidical temples, which are common in every pariſh of this county; and ſome cairns, under one of which there is a tradition that *Irvine*, the laird of Drum, lies buried. It is reported that he was ſlain in purſuing Donald Lord of the Iſles, after the battle of Harlaw, in the year 1411. The biſhop of Aberdeen had formerly a houſe at Old-Rain in this pariſh. The people in general are ſober, regular and induſtrious, and are as contented with their condition as moſt people.

NUMBER

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF KIRKBEAN,

(COUNTY OF KIRRCUDBRIGHT, PRESBYTERY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. Mr EDWARD NEILSON, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Name.

THE antient name of the pariſh is ſaid to have been *Caerben.* It is evidently derived from the Celtic or Gaelic, and ſignifies *the high fort* or *town. Caer* in that language ſignifies a fortified town or place, and *ben*, high. Doctor CLAPPERTON of Lochmaben, a gentleman well known for his knowledge of antiquities, is of opinion that Camden, the Engliſh antiquary, with his followers, are miſtaken, when they make *Caerleveroch* the *Caerbentorigum* of Ptolomy, while others, from mere conjecture, make it the *Uxellum.* That Horſely, another Engliſh antiquary, has miſled the late Rev. Doctor HENRY of Edinburgh, to *Bardenna* in the pariſh of Keir, which he makes the Caerbentorigum of Ptolomy, or the Carbantium of the Geographer Revennas. Nothing, he aſſerts, can be more abſurd, as *Caerben* is obviouſly pointed out, both in the Caerbentorigum of Pto omy, and in the

Carbantium

Carbantium of the Geographer Revennas. The Caerbentorigum of Ptolomy was ſituated at the mouth of the Novius Fluvius or Nith. Agreeably to this, there is, cloſe upon the ſhore, where the river now empties itſelf into the ſea, about a mile and a half to the S. E. of the church, a high riſing ground, called *the Borron Hill*, upon which has ſtood a Caſtle or Fort, ſtill known by the name of *the Caſtle-Hill*, or *M'Culloch's Caſtle*; and, about a mile and a half to the Weſt, there is a place called *Torrorie*, in both of which the word *Caerbentorigum* is ſtill retained.

Situation, Hills, &c.—It is ſituated on a promontory in the S. E. corner of Galloway, in lat. 54. 55 m. It is bounded on the N. E. by the pariſh of Caerleveroch in Nithſdale, from which it is ſeparated by the Frith of Nith about 3 miles. On the S. E. the firſt land to be ſeen is the county of Cumberland, in the North of England, from which it is ſeparated by the Solway Firth, about 10 miles. On the Weſt, it is bounded by the united pariſhes of Colvend and Southwich; and, on the North, by the pariſh of *New-Abbey* or *Sweet-heart*. It was anciently within the dioceſe or biſhopric of Galloway, and now, with 9 other pariſhes, lying betwixt the water o Urr and the river Nith, is within the Preſbytery and Synod of Dumfries, from which it is diſtant about 11 miles. From the North, where it joins New-Abbey, it ſtretches about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Weſt, and upon the ſhore, which is nearly parallel, it runs about 6 miles. Its breadth may be about 3 miles, but it varies. From Weſt to North there is a ridge of hills, which terminates in Crofell, or Crowfell, which is the higheſt hill in the S. of Scotland, and a conſiderable part of which i within the pariſh. The height of it has been accurately

aſcertained.

aſcertained *. From this ridge of hills, the pariſh inclines towards the ſhore, and preſents to the eye a rich, beautiful, and extenſive proſpect, fields well incloſed, and in a high ſtate of cultivation; with ſeveral clumps and belts of planting.

Climate and Diseases. The climate is healthy. The inhabitants are not ſubject to any local diſeaſe. Formerly the ague is ſaid to have been frequent; now it has almoſt entirely diſappeared. This, by ſome, has been attributed to the neceſſary operations of agriculture, the wet and moraſs grounds being now moſtly drained. By others, however, of more knowledge and experience, it has been attributed to another cauſe. Formerly, many of the inhabitants went into Lincolnſhire for employment during the harveſt, and returned infected with this diſeaſe; now they have work ſufficient to employ them in the pariſh, and the diſeaſe is ſeldom a complaint. Innoculation is frequent and ſucceſsful.

Soil and Produce. The ſoil is various. Upon the N. W. and W. a conſiderable tract lies upon lime-ſtone. Upon the

* In 1784, Robert Riddell, Eſq; of Glenriddell, employed Mr William M'Cartney land-ſurveyor, to take for him the height of this hill. The following is a copy of Mr M'Cartney's letter to him. "Sir,—Being the other day at "Crofell, and recollecting the converſation we had about its height, I reſol-"ved to aſcertain it. I made my obſervations from a baſe on the ſhore, of "a mile in length, and the reſult was as follows: viz. Douglas Cairn, on "the ſummit of the mountain, 1895, ſay 1900 feet in round numbers, and "Knockendoch, or the north wing of the mountain, 1500 feet above high wa-"ter mark. I adjuſted the level before obſervation, for, by an experiment, I "found that it pointed two feet too low, in every hundred yards."

In 1440, William Earl of Douglas, the laſt warden of the weſt marches, aſſembled the *hail lairds*, freeholders, and eldeſt borderers of his wardenry at Lincluden. There he corrected and improved the border laws; a copy of which is to be found in the Lord Maxwell's manuſcript of the laws of the marches. In theſe laws, this hill is mentioned as one of the beacons for alarming the country, during the frequent incurſions made by the Engliſh into Scotland.

S. E. there is a rich and deep clay and loam; and upon the S. W. there are 1000 acres of ſalt and whinny paſture, in ſome places light and ſandy, but moſtly arable, and conſidered as capable of being improved by tillage, to advantage. The ſoil in general is fertile, and produces wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, beans, peas, turnips, rye and clover ſeeds. There may be annually in the pariſh

Under wheat, - -	133 acres
——— Barley, - -	140
——— Oats, - -	600
——— Beans, peas, turnips, and potatoes, - -	150
	1023

Exports.—The crops are more than ſufficient to ſupply the inhabitants. Wheat is generally carried to Dumfries. A conſiderable quantity of barley, oats, and potatoes, is exported to the Whitehaven, Lancaſter, and Liverpool markets, and frequently to the ports of Clyde. Potatoes were firſt exported from this, in any conſiderable quantity, in December 1774, by the late Peter Greggan, tenant in the farm of Kirkhouſe. For ſeveral years ſince, a quantity has been raiſed, equal in value to the whole rental of the pariſh about 40 years ago.

Black Cattle and Horses.—The cattle are generally of the Galloway breed, and when fattened for the butcher, or for the South of England, they weigh well for their ſize. It is certain, however, that the pariſh is capable of feeding in proportion, cattle of a larger kind. This has been proved by WILLIAM CRAIK, Eſq; of Arbigland, who made the experiment; whilſt a conſiderable part of his eſtate was kept in paſture, he introduced the Bakewell breed, and found that the

the ſame number of theſe cattle, upon the ſame field, fattened equally with thoſe of the Galloway kind. Their number are as follows:

Horses		Black Cattle.	
Employed in agriculture,	141	Milk cows,	229
Ditto bred, -	37	Cattle grazed,	1171
Total, beſides carriage and ſaddle horſes,	178		1400

Sheep and Wool.—The number of ſheep of the black-faced Scotch breed, kept upon the ſalt and whinny paſture, and moſtly fattened for the butcher, is about, 17 ſcores, or 340

——Of the ſame kind upon the high land, and moſtly kept as a breeding ſtock, about - 40 ſcore or 800

Total of this kind, 57 1140

The management of this kind of ſheep is ſuch as is generally followed in other parts of the South of Scotland. Their lambs are ſold at 4l. per ſcore, and their wool at 7s. 6d. per ſtone, being 24lb Engliſh to the ſtone. Of the *Spaniſh* kind, there are a few in the pariſh, but of them little at preſent can be ſaid, as they were but lately brought into this part of the county. The kind of Sheep that produces the beſt wool, and appears to be of moſt advantage to the farmer, is of the *Bakewell* breed. They were firſt brought into this pariſh by the late Peter Greggan formerly mentioned; and with regard to wool, have ſince been much improved. Their wool was lately compared with that of a Spaniſh ram, ſent to William Craik, Eſq; by Sir John Sinclair, and found to be equal to that of the Spaniſh, if not finer in quality. The wool of theſe ſheep, upon the farm of Kirkhouſe, was

ſold, laſt ſeaſon, at 1l. per ſtone. Their lambs ſell at 12s. each; and, when above two years old, weigh 17lb or 20lb per quarter. They are fed upon good land.

Agriculture.—This pariſh is generally allowed to have been the firſt in the South of Scotland, in an improved ſtate of agriculture. This muſt as generally be aſcribed to the ſuperior knowledge, and unwearied attention of the preſent WILLIAM CRAIK, Eſq; of Arbigland, formerly mentioned, whoſe example has had a moſt uſeful influence.

IMPLEMENTS of HUSBANDRY.

Number of Scotch and Engliſh ploughs -	47
——— ditto Drill for ſowing different grains, beſides turnip drills,	3
Total,	50

The common plough, with the round ſock, is generally uſed in the high land of the pariſh. The Engliſh plough, with the broad ock, and broad and pot-metal moulds, upon the low and level land. The drill, where the land is level, and free of large ſtones. This plough, in its preſent ſtate, was conſtructed by WILLIAM CRAIK, Eſq; and has been uſed upon his eſtate for many years paſt. It is drawn by one horſe only, and ſows four rows at once. Three Wincheſter buſhels of oats to the acre, ſown by this plough, are found to be ſufficient, whereas 8 and ſometimes 9 Wincheſter buſhels to the acre, are generally ſown by broad caſt. Barley and oats ſown by this plough are allowed to be better headed, and of ſuperior quality, to any ſown by broad caſt. This has already been experienced by ſome of the farmers in the pariſh, who have followed Mr CRAIK's example; and it is expected, that, where the land is ſuitable, ſelf intereſt will make it more generally

generally prevail. Ploughs of this conſtruction are made in the pariſh, at 6l. 6s. each. Mr CRAIK has uſed the ſame plough, in ſowing all kinds of grain, excepting pulſe, for theſe 30 years paſt, and it is ſtill in good repair. Four oxen, with two horſes, and two men, were formerly uſed in plowing. Now, two horſes, with one man, who holds the plough, and drives the horſes himſelf, are found ſufficient even for the heavieſt land.

Rotation of Crops.—Common rotation, two crops of oats, a green crop, potatoes, beans, peaſe, or turnips, with a dreſſing of dung: Then a crop of wheat, or barley, ſown out with rye and clover ſeeds, to lie 3 or 4 years. The following rotation has been tried, but its effect has not yet been fully aſcertained; 1ſt, oats upon ſtubble; 2d, horſe beans, in rows, about 20 inches diſtant, with a full dreſſing of dung, horſe and hand hoed; 3d, wheat upon one furrow; 4th, turnips, potatoes, cabbage, &c, horſe hoed, on four feet ridges, giving the crop half a dunging; 5th, barley with red and white clover ſeeds, to ly one or two years, and then return to oats. This rotation is propoſed, to make a ſummer fallow unneceſſary. It is ſuited for a good loamy ſoil, and where there is acceſs to lime, marl, or any natural manure. Where to theſe there is no acceſs, there might be difficulty in finding a ſufficient quantity of dung. There is now no diſtinction made between the *croft* and the *out-field.*

Proprietors.—The proprietors are William Craik, Eſq; of Arbigland, Richard Alexander Oſwald, Eſq; of Auchencruive, Alexander Dickſon, Eſq; of Ladyland, with James Duff, William M'Kie, and John Liddle, portioners. Mr Craik is the only reſiding heritor. Of this gentleman, it is not eaſy to ſay too much, in the opinion of his acquaintance, or too little, in his own. For general knowledge, for liberality

rality of ſentiment, and for his exertions in promoting the improvement of his country, he has had few equals. Through a life prolonged to the extraordinary length of above 90 years, he has cultivated theſe virtues; and, even at this advanced age, he has the rare felicity of being ſtill capable of communicating, and of enjoying the pleaſures which ariſe from converſation, and from the ſociety of his friends.

Diviſion and Value of the Pariſh.—The pariſh, as at preſent poſſeſſed, is divided into 36 farms, and of theſe, one is generally kept in paſture. The whole land of the pariſh is twice doubled in rent within theſe 40 years. The eſtate of Arbigland is at preſent five times the rent that it was 37 years ago. This great advance evidently proves the attention and induſtry of the proprietor and tenants.

Villages,—Kirkbean.—There are 3 villages in the pariſh, Kirkbean, Preſton, and Salterneſs. The village of Kirkbean formerly conſiſted of farm houſes chiefly, with a joiner's and a blackſmith's houſe. At preſent, there are two joiners houſes, one blackſmith's houſe, two grocery ſhops, two alehouſes, with ſeveral others, inhabited by the labourers and cottagers belonging to the neighbouring farms. This village is pleaſantly ſituated. It ſtands upon a place almoſt ſurrounded with little hills, and riſing ground, covered with wood. From the W. deſcends a ſmall rivulet, which, among the wood, forms a beautiful cataract, and then, running gently through the village, in the centre of which there is a bridge, it empties itſelf into the ſea. The proprietor Mr Oswald, in the late ſet of a neighbouring farm, has reſerved a part of this village, to accomodate the poor on his eſtate, with free houſes; a mark of that benevolence and humanity which alone can add dignity to affluence, and of which,

during

during the late reſidence of the family in this pariſh, the indigent have ſo liberally received.

Preſton.—This village takes its name from the eſtate of Preſton, upon which it ſtands. It formerly belonged to the regent Morton, and is now the property of Mr Oswald. It is ſaid to have been a burgh of regality, and had the privilege of 4 fairs in the year. A croſs, of about 7 feet in height, raiſed on a baſe of ſtone wall, about 4 feet ſquare, is ſtill ſtanding. Nothing now remains of its ancient privileges, but at this croſs poinds have lately been compriſed. Some years ago, this village was inhabited by 24 farmers; at preſent there are only 3, with their cottagers.

Salterneſs.—This village ſtands cloſe upon the ſhore, due ſouth of the church. It was built by the late Richard Oswald, Eſq; of Auchencruive, with the view, it is ſaid, of a coal trade. A trial for coal was made in its neighbourhood, but without ſucceſs. It is now chiefly inhabited by perſons who keep furniſhed rooms, to accomodate ſuch as, during the ſeaſon, come to it for the benefit of ſea bathing.

Sea Coaſt, Tower, Lime-ſtone, &c.—The points of land, are Salterneſs and Borron. Salterneſs, from whence the above mentioned village takes its name, has been conſidered by ſome ſeamen, notwithſtanding the charts now publiſhed of the South-Eaſt, to be the ſouthmoſt point of land in Scotland. The name now appears to be corrupted. It is ſaid to have been originally, *Southwickneſs, i. e.* the ſouthermoſt point, probably from a pariſh in its neighbourhood, called *Southwick.* Upon this *neſs*, or point of land, a tower is erected for a land-mark for veſſels on their way along this coaſt. A part of it was built many years ago, by ſome merchants

in

in Dumfries, then carrying on a considerable trade with Virginia. It was afterwards raised to its present height, by the late Mrs OSWALD of Auchencruive. This tower, at present, is of great advantage to the navigation of this coast, and would still be of greater advantage, were lights placed in it. As limestone abounds in its neighbourhood, the sea, every tide, washing that kind of rock, it is believed, that if here a small harbour was built, a considerable trade in that line might be carried on. Vessels often come to anchor at Salterness, in 3 or 4 fathoms, at low water, in the language of seamen, "to *stop* the tide."

Bay.—CARSETHORN bay on the east shore, and at the mouth of the river Nith, is considered as a safe anchoring place. Several palls of wood for vessels to make fast to, have been put in the beach by the town of Dumfries, who levy a sum for tonage, from all vessels discharging their cargoes upon this shore. All vessels from Dumfries, when meeting with contrary winds, anchor in this bay. Vessels bound for Dumfries frequently lye in the bay, until the spring tides furnish them with water sufficient to carry them up. Ships from the Baltic, laden with timber for Dumfries, generally unload here, as vessels, drawing 11 or 12 feet water, cannot always with safety go above this. There are 3 fathoms water in the bay, and out in the channel the water rises 5 fathoms perpendicular.

Tides.—The courses of the tides are as follows. Out of the Nith, the tides run nigh south to the Borron point, formerly mentioned; they then take their course westward. Upon this shore the tides flow 5 hours, and ebb 7. It is high water on the full and change days of the moon, at half past eleven o'clock. Many sand banks ly off this coast, and such is the rapidity of the tides, that vessels getting aground upon

upon them, have been *up-ſet* and wrecked. The flood, indeed, is more dangerous than the ebb, as it has been known to tumble a ſhip's anchor over and over. It is the general opinion of the inhabitants, natives of the pariſh, that this frith is gradually ſhutting up. This opinion is not founded on the tradition of their fathers only; it is founded on their own obſervations. The navigation of the frith they find is becoming daily more difficult; new ſand-banks frequently appear; and, upon the S. W. of the pariſh, many acres are now excellent ſalt paſture, which not long ago the tides covered, when they conſiſted of ſleach and ſand.

Fiſh.—Several kinds of fiſh abound on this coaſt, ſuch as flounders, ſkate, cod, ſoles, ſhrimps, &c. Turbot are rare. It is an obſervation of the inhabitants, founded on experience, that herrings frequent this coaſt periodically. About 6 years ago, they were found in vaſt ſhoals; from that period till lately, few could be ſeen; at preſent (1793) they every where abound.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The manſe was built about 1730, and enlarged about 1769. Like many public buildings of this kind in the country, it was not ſufficiently executed; and now the heritors propoſe to give it ſome repairs. The church was built in 1776, and, in its ſtructure, it is elegant, convenient, and ſufficient. The glebe, which at preſent lies ſeparated, but a part of which is now propoſed to be exchanged, conſiſts of about 13 acres. The ſtipend, by decreet of 1ſt February 1650, is 4 chalders of grain, $\frac{2}{3}$ meal and $\frac{1}{3}$ bear, Linlithgow meaſure; 500l. Scotch in money, with 50 merks for communion elements. The Duke of Queensberry is patron and titular.

Schools and Poor.—The parochial ſchool funds amount to 1008l. 4s. The intereſt of this ſum ſupports two ſeparate free ſchools; the one under the direction of the heritors and miniſter, 608l. 4s. The other, 400l. ‡ The ſchool ſupported by this ſum, is left to the management of "5 honeſt, upright men, of good report in the pariſh, appointed to lay out the capital upon good and ſufficient ſecurity; and to take care of the ſubject; and that the ſchool-maſter do his duty to the children under his care, by inſtructing them in the principles of the Proteſtant Reformed Religion, and to read and write well; and alſo good manners and good morals."—The parochial poor's funds amount to 265l. beſides the weekly collections, which, with the intereſt of this ſum, ſupport annually about 12 perſons on the roll, and ſupply occaſionally the wants of others. There has not been a a beggar in the pariſh in the memory of man.

Population.—As there has been no regular regiſter kept in the pariſh, of baptiſms, marriages, or deaths, either before or ſince the late Act of Parliament, impoſing certain duties upon each, therefore, no account of theſe can now be given. The following is the preſent ſtate of the population, and the number of diſſenters and mechanics in the pariſh.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF KIRKBEAN.

No of ſouls in 1793 - - -	660
Do in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter -	529
Increaſe,	131

Ages,

‡ This laſt ſum was a donation of the late Mr ANDREW MARSHALL, merchant in Glaſgow. He firſt gave 300l. and afterwards, at his death, left 100l. being, as it is expreſſed by himſelf, in the deed of his firſt donation, "Freely and cheerfully given, I think, for the beſt purpoſes, namely, the farther promoting of genuine Chriſtian knowledge, true piety and virtue towards God, and uprightneſs towards all men."

Ages, Sexes, &c.		Religious Persuasions.	
No. of ſouls under 8 years of age - -	170	Members of the Eſtabliſhed Church * -	650
—— above that age -	490	Roman Catholics -	3
—— Males -	314	Antiburghers -	3
—— Females -	346	Epiſcopalians -	3
—— Families -	130	Quaker -	1
—— Houſes inhabited by one perſon only -	14		660

Mechanics.	*Maſters.*	*Apprentices.*	*Journeymen.*	*Total.*
No. of joiners	3	-	-	3
—Maſons	3	-	-	3
—Slaters -	1	- -	-	1
—Tailors -	4	- 2	- -	6
—Shoe-makers	4	- 2	2	8
—Black-ſmiths	2 -	1	-	3
—Stocking-weavers	6	- 1	-	7
—Seamen -	4	- -	-	4
—Revenue do.	-	- -	8	8
			In all,	43

Diſtinguiſhed Men.—The late Admiral John Campbell was the ſon of the Rev. Mr John Campbell, for ſome time miniſter of this pariſh. He was born in the manſe of Kirkbean, 6th Februray 1719. The account of his life, lately publiſhed in a London Magazine, is in many circumſtances erroneous.—John Paul, who ſome years ago, took the name of John Paul Johns, (for what reaſon let the world

* Some families attend a Relief meeting-houſe in the neighbouring pariſh; but as this ſociety was lately eſtabliſhed in this part of the country, and as none of thoſe who attend it ſay they have renounced the eſtabliſhed church, therefore their number cannot be at preſent aſcertained.

judge,) was the ſon of John Paul, a gardener by trade. He was born in Kirkbean, about the year 1745. Of this perſon's character, this pariſh cannot boaſt. His pillage of the houſe of the Earl of Selkirk; his attempts to burn the town of Whitehaven, out of whoſe harbour he had ſerved his apprentice-ſhip, and his conduct to his native country, during the American war, are inſtances of ingratitude and want of patriotiſm, generally known, and over which, for the honour of humanity, we would wiſh to draw a veil.

Antiquities.—The caſtles of *Cavens*, and *Weaths*, a part only of each now ſtanding, were once the property of the Regent *Morton* *, and by him frequently inhabited. The whole of that barony, excepting two farms, is now the property of Richard Alexander Oſwald, Eſq; of Auchencruive, who, while occaſionally in this part of the country, reſides at the caſtle of Cavens. Upon the N. W. on the farm of Ardrie, at the foot of that ridge of hills formerly mentioned, which terminates in Crofell, there is a Druidical circle ſtill entire †.

Advantages

* Upon his forfeiture, theſe caſtles, with the barony of Preſton, upon which they ſtand, were granted to the family of NITHSDALE, one of whom gave to a ſecond ſon the chief part of that Barony, and ſewed out the reſt.

† At a little diſtance to the eaſt of this, there was lately diſcovered a *Kiſt-vaen*, or ſtone coffin, in which was found an urn. The ſides and ends of it were built with ſmall ſtones, and covered with thin broad ones. The ſtones are ſtill in uſeful preſervation; they make a part of a diviſion dyke, upon the farm. To the ſouth of this, another was found, but of its conſtruction the writer has not yet been informed. In the centre of the pariſh, nigh the public road, ſtood a Druidical temple, which was lately deſtroyed, for the purpoſe of clearing the ground, and building farm houſes. Several urns have been turned up by the plough. One was found in the foundation of the preſent manſe.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—From the natural ſituation of the pariſh—the extent of ſea coaſt, upon which there is plenty of ſleach and ſome ſea weed, with the bays and harbours formerly mentioned, it muſt poſſeſs many advantages. No farmer in the pariſh is above two miles diſtant from the harbour, where he can ſhip the produce of his farm, and receive the higheſt prices given in the country. The want of fuel is the only diſadvantage under which this pariſh labours. Coal brought from Cumberland, in the north of England, is the common fuel, which, to the farmer, and more particularly to the labourer and the indigent, is a very grievous expence. This, however, in ſome meaſure has been leſſened, by the the late repeal of the duty upon coal carried coaſt-ways, for which this pariſh, in particular, is much indebted to the the right honourable HENRY DUNDAS.

Character of the Inhabitants.—A conſiderable number of the inhabitants of different ranks and conditions of life, are induſtrious, ſober, active, and charitable. In their religious ſentiments, they are rational and liberal, and, in their political opinions, they are manly and loyal. As a proof of their loyalty to his Majeſty, and their attachment to the preſent form of government, they have already ſubſcribed 10 l. to be applied in furniſhing with ſhoes, made in the pariſh, their brave and gallant countrymen now on the continent, "ſup-"porting order, regular government, true liberty and reli-"gion." It is expected that a very liberal ſubſcription will ſoon appear.

NUMBER

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF St. FERGUS,

(COUNTY OF BANFF, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, AND PRESBYTERY OF DEER.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN CRAIGIE, *Minister.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THIS parish was anciently named *Inverugie*, and often *Longley*, the church being situated not far from the old place of Inverugie, on those pleasant and extensive downs called *the Link of St-Fergus.* The church was removed from this site *anno* 1616, when the church and parish assumed the name of its patron saint, to whom the 17th of November, according to the Scotch callendar, was sacred. This parish, though it belongs to the county of *Banff*, is situated in that district of *Aberdeen*, called *Buchan.** The coast is washed on

* The male line of the old Earls of BUCHAN, to whom this country originally belonged, failing in the person of FERGUS, the last Earl of the ancient race, his only daughter married WILLIAM CUMINE of the family of Badenoch,

on the Eaſt by the German Ocean, and on the South, by the ſmall river of *Ugie*, which ſeparates it from the pariſh of Peterhead: The extent is as under:

Acres.

noch, who in her right became Earl of Buchan, about the beginning of the 13th Century. The pariſh of St Fergus, and ſome other ſmall eſtates, ſeem to have been given off by the ancient Earls, but there ſtill remained an immenſe eſtate, ſituated in Banff and Aberdeen ſhires, to which William Cumine ſucceeded by his marriage.

The Cumines continued to enjoy their vaſt fortune until the year 1308. This name, then one of the moſt powerful in Scotland, violently oppoſed the ſucceſſion of King ROBERT BRUCE to the Crown, but were completely overthrown by him at Inverury. The king, according to FORDUN, purſued the Cumines as far as Fyvie, where, having diſperſed them, he encamped for ſome time, until the parties which he ſent out had burnt the Earl of Buchan's eſtate. In the Parliament holden at Perth, *anno* 1320, the King divided the Earl's lands among his own friends. To the family of DOUGLAS he gave the greateſt part of the pariſhes of Crimond and Longmay, and a part of the pariſhes of Tyrie and Aberdour. This appears from a charter, which ARCHIBALD the 10th Lord DOUGLAS obtained from King Robert, "*Dilecto et fideli noſtro*, ARCHIBALDO DE DOUGLAS, *pro homagio et ſervitio* "*ſuo*" of the lands of Rothſay, Crimond and Cairnglaſs, &c. in Buchan. Upon the family of CRAWFORD he beſtowed the barony of Kelly, comprehending part of the pariſhes of Tarves, New-Deer, Old-Deer and Longſide. Theſe lands reverted to the Crown by the forfeiture of ALEXANDER Earl of CRAWFORD, and a conſiderable part of them was beſtowed by King JAMES II. on JAMES GORDON of Methlic, Anceſtor of the Earl of Aberdeen, (*Charta in pub. archiv.*) King ROBERT gave to the family of ERROL the pariſhes of Cruden, Slains, and part of the pariſhes of Logie, Ellon, and Udney. To the MARISCHAL family he gave the pariſh of Peterhead, part of Longſide and Old-Deer, the lands of Auchines in the pariſh of Rathen, Pittendrum in Pitſligo pariſh, and Troup, in the pariſh of Gamrie. JOHN CUMINE, the fourth Earl of Buchan of that name, had, before his forfeiture and out-lawry by King Robert, given the barony of Philorth in portion with his daughter MARGARET, who was married to Sir JOHN ROSS, ſecond ſon of the Earl of Ross, who diſponed theſe lands to Hugh Earl of Roſs, his brother, by a charter, dated at Inverneſs 1316. This barony was then of great extent, comprehending the pariſh of Fraſersburgh, moſt part of Tyrie, Aberdour,

	Acres.	
Arable ground - - -	4439	31
Links, arable, but not allowed to be plowed,	435	50
Moſs - - -	795	52

Soil and Surface.—The ſoil in general is a rich clay, and when properly cultivated is abundantly fertile. The appearance of the pariſh is an alternate ſucceſſion of little riſing grounds and valleys, but no moor or barren ground. The piece of ground called *the Links of St. Fergus*, is perhaps one of the moſt pleaſant plains in Scotland, extending along the

dour, Pitſligo, and Rathen, (which laſt comprehends the greateſt part of Strichen pariſh,) together with ſeveral lands in the pariſhes of Turriff and King-Edward. This, together with the whole eſtate of Roſs, was entailed by WILLIAM Earl of Ross, on his eldeſt daughter Eupham, who was married to Sir WALTER LESLIE, and the heirs of her body; whom failing, to Janet his ſecond daughter, who was married to Sir ALEXANDER FRASER of Cowie, anceſtor of Lord SALTON. By this marriage Sir ALEXANDER FRASER got this barony, a conſiderable part of which continues to be the property of Lord Salton.

A part of the ancient Earldom of Buchan was ſituated in the Thanedom of Formartine, which is that diſtrict of Aberdeenſhire, that is bounded by the river Don on the South, and the Ythan on the North. This part of the Earl of Buchan's property remained with the Crown, until DAVID II. gave it to his brother in law WILLIAM, the 5th Earl of Sutherland, as appears by a charter of that King, dated at Dundee, 30th July, 1366. *Totam illam ——— thanagii noſtri de Formartine, cum pertinentibus, jacen. in vice-comitatu de Aberdeen, &c.* Thereafter the Earl diſpoſed of theſe lands to William, eldeſt ſon of William, the 4th Earl of Orkney, as appears by an inſeſtment produced in Parliament, given by James II. *Dilecto conſanguineo ſuo, Gulielmo de Sancto-Claro, filio & hæredi apparenti comitis Orcadæ & Cathaniæ*, of the land and barony of Newburgh, and ſeveral others in Aberdeenſhire, together with the ſalmon fiſhing on Ythan, 16th March 1459, (*Records of Parliament*) This WILLIAM was progenitor of LORD SINCLAIR, whoſe family enjoyed theſe lands for 200 years, and then diſpoſed of them to Udny of that ilk, Turin of Foveran, and others.

the coaſt ſeveral miles, but of unequal breadth. It produces abundance of ſhort ſweet graſs, white clover, wild thyme, and other herbs, which are thought to contribute much to that delicacy and fine flavour, for which the mutton fed upon them is remarkable. Between the links and the ſea there is a range of little hills, moſtly clay, all covered with bent, which, as it is carefully preſerved, is ſtill encreaſing, and proves an excellent defence againſt the blowing of the ſand, which, on a low ſhore, without ſuch a barrier, would do very material damage to the paſture ground of the links, and alſo to the adjacent fields.

Sea Coaſt, Minerals, &c.—The ſhore in the pariſh of St. Fergus forms two ſegments of a circle; the one, beginning at the mouth of the Ugie, terminates at the Scotſtown Craig, and the other reaches from this Craig to Rattray-head, the property of Mr Harvey of Broadland. The rocks both at Rattray and Scotſtown afford plenty of lime-ſtone, which at low water is eaſily quarried. At Scotſtown as well as at Craig-Ewan, hard by the mouth of the Ugie, there is abundance of excellent granite; and, all along the coaſt, an inexhauſtible quantity of ſhells, which are now uſed as manure with great advantage. From theſe two rocks of Craig-Ewan and Scotſtown, a very trifling quantity of kelp is made every ſecond year.

Fiſhery, Proprietor, ‡ *&c.*—All kinds of fiſh, found on the E. coaſt of Scotland, are caught here in great abundance, ſuch as

‡ The proprietor, upwards of 20 years ago, attempted to eſtabliſh a fiſhing town in this pariſh; and if there were a proper landing place for the boats, it would be an excellent ſtation for fiſhers, being ſo near to Rattray-head, which has long been eſteemed the very beſt fiſhing ground for cod and ling.

as ling, ſkate, flounders, cod, haddocks, crabs, lobſters, &c. Mr FERGUSON of Pitfour, the ſole proprietor of this pariſh, has the ſalmon fiſhing in the Ugie, for which he receives 1c0l. Sterling yearly rent from Meſſrs Arbuthnot in Peterhead. The quantity of ſalmon taken here in a ſeaſon, has ſometimes exceeded 1200 barrels; but in one ſeaſon, they only amounted to 14 barrels and a half. It very often happens, that the mouth of the river is almoſt ſhut up, by large quantities of ſea weeds, ſo that the ſalmon cannot enter it; and this obſtacle generally remains until the ſea weeds are carried off by a land flood.

Light-Houſe and Canal propoſed.—It is the opinion of ſhipmaſters, who ſail along this coaſt, that a light-houſe on Rattray-head is highly neceſſary. Within the laſt twenty years, ſeveral veſſels with their cargoes have been daſhed to pieces on the rocks of Rattray and Scot-ſtown, which would have been ſaved, had there been a light-houſe at Rattray-head. A canal might alſo be made at a ſmall expence, from the mouth of the Ugie, along the ſouth ſide of this pariſh, and might be extended to the diſtance of ſeveral miles through the country weſtward.

Agriculture. †—No ſown graſs or green crops were produced here, until the proprietor, and ſome other gentlemen, formed

† About 25 years ago, a moſt execrable mode of farming was practiſed in this pariſh. Four, and often ſix horſes dragged after them the old Scotch ploughs. As there were at that time but few black cattle or ſheep, the only manure was the dung of the horſes, excepting that a few farmers in the S. E. part of the pariſh, laid ſea-weed on their grounds; the firſt crop after the dung, or ſea-weed, was bear, which was ſucceeded by two crops of oats, and a crop of beans or peaſe, and this was followed by a crop of bear, ſometimes without ſea-weed or dung. This was the manner of treating the in-field. The *out-field*, that is the ground which had never any manure laid upon it, carried

formed a ſociety for encouraging agriculture, and gave premiums for fallow, ſown graſs, and turnips. By this encouragement, and by obſerving the great advantage that accrued from early graſs, hay, and green crops, the farmers were induced to fallow, ſow turnips, and lay down their fields in graſs; and at preſent, ſome of them have generally one third of their farm in graſs, and a very conſiderable number of cattle are every year fed on turnips. Although improvements in agriculture have made but little progreſs, as yet, in this pariſh, it is a curious fact, that until the greateſt part of the leaſes were expired, there was nothing done in that way. This is chiefly owing to a well-placed confidence in the proprietor, who has never yet ejected a tenant, although many of them have had no leaſes for upwards of 20 years. Many offers of an increaſe of rent have been made for every farm, as ſoon as the leaſe expired; but the poſſeſſors, or their heirs, if they inclined to remain, have been allowed to continue in their farms, and no riſe of rent has been exacted. The proprietor, wiſely judging that improvement ſhould precede a riſe of rent, has been at great pains to lead them to better management; and although the encouragement given has not had all the effect that

carried oats for three or four years. The fourth year, the return ſeldom doubled the quantity of ſeed that had been ſown. The fifth year, they fallowed the out-field, but gave no manure of any kind; and the ſixth year they had a tolerable crop of oats. The ground was then allowed to reſt for ſome years, and it was ſeldom before the 4th year, that it got a green ſurface. It no ſooner had this appearance, than it got one plowing in winter, and was ſuffered to remain in that ſtate for a year, and then had a ſecond plowing, and was ſown with oats. If there was any part of the field, that had not undergone the firſt plowing, the ſurface was dug up with the ſpade, and therewith dykes were made of 2 or 3 feet in height, which having been expoſed to the winter froſt and rain, were in ſpring pulled down and ſpread upon the ground, from which the ſurface had been taken. This ground was then plowed, and ſeldom failed to produce one good crop of oats.

that might have been expected, the mode of farming is much changed. Inſtead of 6 horſes in a plough, they never uſe more than 4, and many uſe only 2, without a driver. Some plow with 6 oxen, ſome with 4, and ſome with 2; but the horſes and oxen are of a much larger ſize than formerly, and the Berwick-ſhire plough is now generally uſed.

Produce, Seaſons, &c.—The crops now raiſed are oats, weighing from 14 to 16 ſtone, Amſterdam weight; bear from 17 to 19 ſtone; beans, peaſe, turnips, potatoes, and a little flax. The ſeaſon of ſowing is from the latter end of March to the beginning of June; and the harveſt commonly begins after the middle of September, and is finiſhed about the end of October. The rotation of crops, followed by the beſt farmers, is turnips or fallow, bear laid down with graſs ſeeds, and after 3 or 4 years in graſs, two crops of oats are taken. If, after this, the ground is clean, beans are ſown, but if otherwiſe, turnips or potatoes, and then bear and graſs ſeeds. Wheat has been neglected, although it is well adapted to the ſoil; but as the heritor has kept ſome good farms in his own hand, (when the tenants have died, or removed of their own accord,) to accommodate farmers from thoſe countries where wheat is cultivated, it is to be hoped, that this grain will in a few years make a principal part of the crop of this pariſh. The greateſt part of the ſoil here being a ſtrong clay, and all of it on a rich clay bottom, it is clear, that the carſe mode of plowing and cropping would ſucceed well here. When this mode is introduced, the true value of this ſoil will be known.

Farm Rents and Improvements.—The tenants being numerous, the rents are various. Some pay 90 l. in money and grain; and ſome 2l. or perhaps even leſs. Every man who has

a

a horſe has alſo a cart. Some uſe no horſes, but do all kinds of farm work with oxen. One farmer, JAMES CLARKE in Nether-hill, uſes oxen for his threſhing machine, which is the only thing of the kind, that has as yet been introduced in this part of the country. It is to this induſtrious honeſt man, that we are indebted for introducing the ſhell ſand as a manure, which now turns out to ſo great account, that many acres, which would not formerly have produced double the quantity of the ſeed, now produce weighty crops both of grain and hay.

Exports.—This pariſh always produces more grain than is ſufficient for the ſupport of its inhabitants; and even in the year 1782, had the produce been kept within the pariſh, there would have been no need of any foreign ſupply. About 1600 bolls of grain are exported annually; butter and cheeſe to the value of 600 l. Sterling; fat cattle, horſes, and ſheep, to a conſiderable amount; and a ſmall quantity of hay and potatoes.

Population.—The population of this pariſh is ſomewhat leſs than it was 40 years ago. The following table ſhows the decreaſe, as well as the ages, profeſſions, &c. of the inhabitants.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF ST FERGUS.

No. of ſouls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter,	1271		
Ditto in 1775, - -	1254	Decreaſe,	17
Ditto in 1793, - -	1240	Ditto	14
Total decreaſe within 40 years,			31

AGES, SEXES, BIRTHS, &c.			
No of perſons under 10 years of age, - -	108	No. of perſons between 50 and 70,	272
—— Between 10 and 20	230	——Aged 70 and upwards,	221
—— 20 and 50	409	No. of males, -	559
		Females, -	681
		Majority of females,	122

No.

Annual average of births †, for 7 years preceding October 1792,	28
Ditto of marriages,	8
Ditto of deaths, -	22

CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.

No. of proprietors, -	1
—— Miniſters, -	1
—— School-maſters,	1
—— Farmers, -	131
—— Shop-keepers, -	2
—— Weavers, -	43
—— Smiths, -	7
—— Wrights and Coopers,	12
—— Shoe-makers,	5
—— Tailors, -	5
—— Maſons, -	3
—— Inn-keepers, -	2
—— Millers, -	6

STOCK, RENTS, &c.

No. of Horſes, -	265
—— Black Cattle,	785
—— Sheep, -	908
—— Mills, -	3
—— Ploughs, -	70
Valued rent in Scotch money, -	L. 3000 0 0

WAGES §.

A man ſervant, per annum, when maintained‡, from	L. 6 to L. 8 0 0
A woman ditto from	L. 3, to 4 0 0
A reaper in harveſt, with maintainance -	1 5 0
Ditto when hired per day, 10d or	1 0
A female ditto, per ſeaſon,	1 0 0
Ditto per day, from 6d to	0 0 8
A wright per day, maintained, from 8d to	0 1 0
A tailor, ditto	0 0 6
A maſon, without maintainance, from 1s. 8d. to	0 1 10
A day labourer with meat	0 0 6
Ditto without it, 9d or	0 0 10

RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS.

Members of the Eſtabliſhed Church, -	1145
Antiburgher Seceders,	25
Scotch Epiſcopalians, -	70

Manufactures.—The bleach-field at Inverugie, belonging to Meſſrs Forbes, Scott, and Co. employs a good many hands. There is every apparatus for bleaching thread; and the

† ALEXANDER ANDERSON, miller at Inverugie, aged 70, has 40 grandchildren, all under 20 years of age.

§ The prices of proviſions are the ſame here as at Peterhead.

‡ When the man ſervant lives out of the family, he has, beſides the above wages, 6 bolls and a half of meal, at 8 ſtone *per* boll Amſterdam weight, and 1 boll ten pecks of malt, Aberdeen-ſhire meaſure with vegetables.

the value of the thread whitened here annually, is about 5000 l. Sterling.—A conſiderable quantity of linen yarn is ſpun in this pariſh, by which a woman can earn about 4d. *per* day.—The weavers here are kept in employment by working for Meſſrs Kilgours, woollen-manufacturers at Kinmundy, in the pariſh of Longſide, and Alexander Dalgarno and Co. Peterhead. The beer and porter brewery at Inverugie is carried on by Mr Seller with ſucceſs; and a diſtillery of whiſky, by William Lillie, and Co. at the ſame place, turns to good acount.

Diſeaſes.—The ſmall-pox carried off great numbers formerly; but as inoculation is now become general, this diſeaſe is leſs fatal. The ſcurvy, with which many people here were affected, is not ſo general, owing perhaps to the more liberal uſe of vegetables. Fevers, and often conſumptions, prove fatal in this and the neighbouring pariſhes; but the moſt terrible diſeaſe, that has been known in this part of the country for a century, is the putrid ſore throat, which was not known here before December 1790. The number of deaths were more than double that year, owing to ravages made by this diſeaſe.

Language and Etymologies.—The dialect called broad Buchans is ſpoken here. It is thought to approach nearer to the ancient *Gothic*, than the language of any other diſtrict in Scotland. As the Picts were the antient inhabitants of the Eaſt coaſt of Scotland, they impoſed names on the different places, expreſſive, (in their language,) of their ſituation or ſome particular property. It is not eaſy to aſſign any good reaſon, for attempting to derive the names of places in this country from the *Celtic*, as there is no evidence, that it was inhabited by the Celts. The names of all the places in this

pariſh

parish, and the adjacent country, plainly appear to be Gothic, Saxon, or Danish. For example, *South-effie*, *Middle-effie*, and *North-effie*, signify the South, Middle, and North pasture, or feeding place, from the Teutonic *Essen*, to feed. *Pittinheath*, compounded of the Saxon *Pit*, and *Heath*, the name of a well known shrub. *Pitfour*, the hollow trench; *Pitsligo*, anciently *Pitsligach*, the slaughter hollow. *Cruden*, was certainly a part of the ancient *Cruthenica*, or Pictish kingdom, so called from *Cruthen* the first king of the Picts. *Deer*, the name of a neighbouring parish, signifies *a valley*, and is very expressive of the situation of that place. *Broadland*, the land of bread. *Crimond*, anciently *Creichmont*, the low or little mount. *Lonmay*, anciently *Longmay*, the long green, &c.

Woods.—At present there is no wood in the parish, except a few old planes at Inverugie.‡ The proprietor has paid much attention to the raising of wood on his other estates, particularly in the parishes of Deer and Longside, where he has planted 940 English acres. They were all planted with Scotch firs, which succeeded in about one fourth of the whole, and that part has been filled up with barren timber of different kinds. Where the Scotch firs have failed, the larch and spruce have come forward; and it seems probable, that by

‡ There is clear evidence, that, at some former period, a great part of this parish has been covered with wood, chiefly oak, aller, birch, hazel, and willow, the remains of all which are found in the mosses. No roots or trees, however, of the Scotch fir have been found, which shows that this kind of wood is not proper for this part of the country. It would appear that the woods in this country had, at one time or other, been destroyed by fire, as the marks of that element are visible on many of the roots and trees that are dug up in the mosses. It may not be an improbable conjecture, that this happened *anno* 1308, when King Robert Bruce defeated Cumine Earl of Buchan, near Inverury. Fordun, ¶ after narrating this defeat, adds, "*comitatum de Buchan igne consumsit.*

¶ *Fordun, vol.* II. *p.* 241.

by draining, and planting larch and ſpruce firs for nurſeries, other trees may be brought up. Many drains have already been made, and ſeveral thouſands of larches and ſpruces have been planted, and the ſame improvements are carrying on through the whole.

Roads and Bridge.—The principal roads, through this pariſh, are thoſe leading from Peterhead to Fraſerburgh and Banff, and from Peterhead to Old Deer. They are kept in tolerable repair by the ſtatute labour, but will never be good roads until turnpikes are eſtabliſhed. It is not to be imagined that any man will work a day on the roads, when he may redeem his labour for 3d. If ever a mail coach be eſtabliſhed, for the accommodation of the country north of Aberdeen, the courſe muſt be by the coaſt ſide, at leaſt in winter, as the other road by Fyvie is often impaſſable, on account of the depth of the ſnow; and the certainty of paſſengers, from the towns on the coaſt, eſpecially at Peterhead, where there is always a great reſort of company for the benefit of the mineral well, will make the road by the coaſt ſide eligible in ſummer. The only bridge in this pariſh is that over the Ugie, on the road from Peterhead to Fraſerburgh and Banff. It conſiſts of two arches. This bridge was built, in conſequence of an act of Parliament for that effect, in the reign of James the VII. of Scotland, and II. of England. *

Eccleſiaſtical State.—This pariſh is one of the 32 the tithes and patronage whereof belonged to the Abbey of Arbroath. §

* *Reprinted Acts of Parl.* James VII. *Par.* 1.

§ The miniſter of St. Fergus formerly ſupplied the charge at Fetterangus, by preaching there every third ſabbath, until 1618, when Fetterangus was annexed to Deer. Fetterangus, as well as St. Fergus, is in Banff-ſhire; and the reaſon

The family of Panmure acquired a right to those tithes and patronage; but, by the attainder of the Earl of PANMURE, who unfortunately engaged in the rebellion in 1715, the patronage fell to the Crown. The stipend is 90 l, including one chalder of bear, and three of meal, valued at 81. 6 s. 8d. *per* chalder. The glebe is about 8 acres of good land. The church was built in 1763, and the manse in 1766; and both are in good repair. There is no dissenting meeting-house in the parish.

Schools.—The school-house was built *anno* 1786. The salary of the school-master consists of 10 bolls of meal paid by the parishioners, and 3 l. 9 s. paid by heritors. He draws 2 l. from the kirk-session as their clerk, besides what he receives at baptisms and marriages. As there are generally some private schools in the parish, the number of scholars attending the parochial school seldom exceeds 30. Such as are taught Latin pay 2s. 6d, arithmetic, 2 s, reading and writing, 1 s. 6d, and reading English, 1 s. *per* qaarter.

Poor—The number on the poor's roll in the parish is 30; and the funds, from which they are supplied, arise from 120 l. at interest, the profits of a herse for burials, which, at an average, produces 3 l. *per annum*; seat-rents, 2l. 14s. 4d; &c. the weekly collections 24 l. *per annum*; amounting in all to 35 l. 14s. 4d. JAMES FERGUSON, Esq; of PITFOUR, the sole proprietor of the parish, gives annually a liberal donation to the poor, by which, and the above funds, they are so well supplied, that there are no beggars in the parish.

Eminent

reason is said to be, that the CHEYNES of Inverugie, the ancient proprietors, who were heritable Sheriffs of Banff, obtained an act of the Legislature, declaring their own lands to be within their own jurisdiction. St. Fergus, Fetterangus, and Strolach, in New-Machar parish, which also belonged to the Cheynes, pay the land tax and window tax, as parts of Banff-shire, but in every other respect are subject to the jurisdiction of the Sheriff of Aberdeen.

Eminent Men.—It might be proper, under this article, to give a ſhort account of the moſt eminent family in Scotland, the CUMINES, who were Earls of BUCHAN, * and either pro-

T 2 prietors

¶ The chief of this family was CUMINE Lord BADENOCH, of whom were deſcended the Earls of Buchan and Monteith, and 32 knights §. This faction, with the Earls of MARR and ATHOLL, with whom they were connected by marriages, ruled the kingdom as they pleaſed, during ſome years in the latter part of the reign of ALEXANDER the II. and during the firſt part of the reign of ALEXANDER III.

The male line of the antient Earls of Buchan failing in the perſon of FERGUS ¶, the laſt Earl of the ancient race, his daughter MARJORY married WILLIAM CUMINE of the houſe of Badenoch, who in his right became Earl of Buchan about the beginning of the 13th century. His poſterity continued to enjoy this great eſtate for 100 years, and were the moſt powerful ſubjects in the kingdom. This Earl founded the abbey of Deer, and endowed it with a conſiderable revenue in lands ſituated in the county of Aberdeen, *Anno* 1218. He was conſtituted great juſticiary of Scotland by ALEXANDER II. in 1220; and his brother WALTER was by the ſame King created Earl of MONTEITH, he having married the heireſs of that family, by whom he got a large eſtate. The CUMINES being now ſo rich and powerful, they became formidable, not only to the nobles, but even to the King. They were called to anſwer before the King and Eſtates, anno 1255, for their various acts of *tyranny, oppreſſion, murder, and ſacrilege*, and not appearing, a ſentence of outlawry and forfeiture was pronounced againſt them; but Government was too weak to put this ſentence in execution. The faction, greatly irritated by this ſentence, reſolved to take the firſt opportunity of getting the king's perſon into their power ‡. WALTER, Earl of Monteith, was the principal actor in this plot; and having along with him WILLIAM, the 2d Earl of Buchan of the

§ FORDUN *and* MAJOR.

¶ *A charter granted by* FERGUS *Earl of* BUCHAN *to* JOHN *the ſon of* UCHTRED, *is to be ſeen in the Advocates library. From the charter it appears that Fergus had exchanged the lands, ſituated betwixt Gicht and the Bank of Bebilch, with John for the lands of Slains; and John was obliged to give attendance at the courts held by the Earl his ſuperior at Ellon.*

‡ FORDUN.

prietors or superiors of all that Earldom, besides many considerable estates in other parts of the kingdom. But as it would

the name of Cumine, the Earl of ATHOL, Lord BADENOCH, the Earl of MARR, and others of their adherents, they entered the royal apartments at Kinross, early in the morning of the 28th of October 1255, and made the king a prisoner before he was awake, and carried him to Stirling. They then dismissed his Majesty's servants, and filled all places of trust with their own adherents. So great was their power, that the king, after he had recovered his liberty, thought it prudent to give them a full pardon.

ALEXANDER, the 3d Earl of Buchan, of the name of Cumine, was Justiciary and Lord high Constable of Scotland, and was appointed one of the six governors of the kingdom, after the death of King ALEXANDER III. He founded an hospital at Turriff, *anno* 1272, for twelve poor husbandmen, and another at Newburgh, both in Aberdeenshire. JOHN, the 4th Earl of Buchan, constable of Scotland, was one of the arbiters chosen on the part of JOHN BALIOL, in the competition for the Crown between him and ROBERT BRUCE. At this time, JOHN CUMINE, Lord BADENOCH, commonly called the *Black Cumine*, claimed the Crown of Scotland, as being descended of HEXASILDA, daughter and heiress of GOTHERIC, son and heir of DONALD king of Scotland. It is well known how this affair was determined by EDWARD I. of England. To the Black Cumine succeeded his son JOHN CUMINE, Lord of Badenoch, commonly called the *Red Cumine*. Scotland had now for a considerable time groaned under the yoke of English servitude: Baliol had meanly given up his pretended right to the Crown to Edward; and Bruce had secretly intimated to his friends his intention of asserting his title to the royal dignity. CUMINE, ever mindful of his own interest, made a solemn engagement with ROBERT, to aid him with all his power in mounting the throne, provided he should be restored to the large possessions which his family had formerly enjoyed; but, after deliberating upon the affair, he began to doubt the event: If the attempt failed he was undone; and he did not know how to retract: His own black heart suggested the detestable remedy: His hopes of great rewards from England induced him to divulge the whole scheme of the Scottish patriots to EDWARD; and BRUCE, finding that he was betrayed, with difficulty escaped to Scotland, where, discovering clear proof of the villany of CUMINE, he pursued him to the church of Dumfries, whither, from conscious guilt, he had fled for refuge, and punished him as his crime deserved, on the tenth of February 1306. Having no issue, he was the last Lord Badenoch, of the name of CUMINE. The slaughter of the *Red Cumine* by BRUCE inspired

would greatly exceed the limits of a ſtatiſtical account to notice, even briefly, the many illuſtrious characters in this great

ed the whole clan with a deſire to revenge his death. They continued violently to oppoſe BRUCE; but, by defeating the Earl of Buchan at Inverurie, *anno* 1308, he put an end to the greatneſs of this too powerful family. BRUCE purſued the Cumines to Fyvie, where they were entirely diſperſed. He encamped there, until the return of the parties which he had ſent out to burn the Earl of BUCHAN's eſtate: The Earl was then forfeited and out-lawed.¶.

At what particular period the CHEYNES became proprietors of this pariſh, is not certainly known; but it would appear, that they were in poſſeſſion of this eſtate before the Cumines ſucceeded to the Earldom of Buchan. Sir REGINOLD CHEYNE of Inverugie was the founder of the Carmelites houſe in Aberdeen; and, beſides other revenues, beſtowed upon it 40s. † yearly out of his lands of Blackwater, in this pariſh. He had, by his wife, a daughter of Cumine, Lord Badenoch, two ſons; Sir REGINALD, who, in 1267, was promoted to the office of Lord Chamberlain of Scotland‡; HENRY CHEYNE, the Chamberlain's brother, was elected Biſhop of Aberdeen, *anno* 1281. He was one of thoſe who ſwore fealty to Edward, *anno* 1296. As he was nearly related to the CUMINES, he adhered to that party, and was obliged to leave this country, and take refuge in England, where he remained in exile until King ROBERT was pleaſed to recal him. He was ſo happy in being allowed to reſume his functions, that he applied all the revenues of the ſee, which, during his abſence, had increaſed to a very conſiderable ſum, in building the bridge over the Don at Aberdeen. This bridge conſiſts of one Gothic arch, 72 feet wide at the water, and the height, from the water to the top of the arch, is 60 feet. He died *anno* 1329, having been biſhop of Aberdeen 48 years.

¶ *A ſilver ſeal, uſed by this Earl in his father's lifetime, was lately found at the monaſtery of Tungland in Galloway. It bears a ſhield embattled at top, and containing three garbs or wheat ſheaves: The Legend,* S. JOUIS COMIN, *Fel. Com. de Buchan. An impreſſion of this ſeal was ſent to that moſt ingenious antiquary Captain* HENRY HUTTON *of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, who it is hoped will ſoon favour the Public with his valuable collection of Antiquities.*

† *Writes of King's College.*

‡ *Fordun, vol. 2 p. 106. and Lives of Officers of State.*

great family; and, as, indeed, ſuch diſquiſitions belong more properly to the department of the *hiſtorian* or *biographer*, than to

years. The direct male line of the CHEYNES ¶ of Inverugie failed in the reign of DAVID, II. and the pariſh of St Fergus, with the other eſtates belonging to the family, fell to two heireſſes, ‡ the eldeſt of whom, MARIOTHA CHEYNE, married John Keith of Ravenſcraig, ſecond ſon of Sir EDWARD KEITH, great Mariſchal of Scotland, who in her right became proprietor of this pariſh about the year 1360. The direct male line of JOHN KEITH failed in the perſon of Sir WILLIAM KEITH of Inverugie, who fell in the battle of Flowden. He left two daughters, the eldeſt of whom was married to William the 4th Earl Mariſchal, ſometime before 1538. By this marriage Earl MARISCHAL became proprietor of St Fergus. He was poſſeſſed of one of the greateſt land eſtates at that time in Scotland. In the years 1530, and 1540,

¶ *The pariſh of St Fergus made but a ſmall part of the property of this ancient family. Niſbet ſays, (Heraldry, vol. I. p. 130) that he ſaw a charter granted by Reynold Cheyne, ſon of Reynold who was the ſon of Reynold, of the lands of Dury. King* ROBERT BRUCE *gives the lands of Dalmeny, which formerly belonged to* ROGER MOUBRAY, *to* REGINALD CHEYNE, *as that king's charter bears in the Earl of Haddington's collections.* REGINALD CHEYNE *gives the lands of Ardlogie, in the pariſh of Fywie, for ſupporting a chaplain in the priory of Fywie, which was ſubordinate to the abbey of* ARBROATH. *(Chart. of Arbroath.)*

From CHEYNE *of Inverugie, were deſcended the Cheynes of Fſſelmont, Arnage, Pitfichie, and Straloch, all which are now extinct.*

CHRISITAN CHEYNE, *a daughter of Straloch, was married to Sir* ALEXANDER SETON *of that ilk, who bravely defended the town of Berwick againſt King Edward and the whole Engliſh army,* anno 1333. *Edward having ſummoned the town to ſurrender, threatened, in caſe of refuſal, to put to death Sir* ALEXANDER's *two ſons, then in his hands, the one as an hoſtage, and the other as a priſoner; but nothing could prevail with the brave Sir Alexander to give up the town as long as it was poſſible to defend it. The perfidious Edward, thereupon, moſt barbarouſly executed the two young men,* WILLIAM *and* THOMAS SETONS, *in view of their father and mother; which ſhocking ſpectacle they bore with a moſt uncommon degree of fortitude.*

‡ *The youngeſt of the co-heireſſes of Cheyne of Inverugie was married to* NICOL SUTHERLAND *of Forbat, and brought with her the lands of* DUFFUS *in Moray. This* NICOL *was anceſtor of the Lords* DUFFUS.

to that of the *ſtatiſtical philoſopher*, we ſhall content ourſelves with giving in this place only a brief ſketch of the character of the great Field Marſhal KEITH, brother to GEORGE, laſt Earl of Mariſchal; and with throwing a few anecdotes of his moſt illuſtrious

1540, he got charters ‖ on many lands lying in the counties, Caithneſs, Inverneſs, Moray, Banff, Aberdeen, Kincardine, Angus, Fife, Linlithgow, &c. It is ſaid, that after Queen MARY's captivity, he took no concern in public affairs, and by living a retired life in his caſtle of Dunottar, he got the name of WILLIAM IN THE TOWER. He ſo much improved his eſtate, that at his death it was reckoned worth 270,000 merks Scots, or 14,208l. 6s. 8d. Sterling. This eſtate was ſo ſituated, that in travelling from the north point of Caithneſs, to the borders of England, he could ſleep every night on his own ground. †

This noble Lord died in an advanced age in 1581, and was ſucceeded by his grandſon GEORGE, the 5th Earl Mariſchal, one of the moſt eminent men of his time. After having ſtudied at Geneva, under the famous THEODORE BEZA, he travelled through Italy and Germany, where he viſited the Landgrave of HESSE, Prince of the CATTI, who, underſtanding who he was, received him kindly, and treated him with great magnificence, as a Scotch deſcendant of the ancient CATTI. In 1589 he was ſent ambaſſador extraordinary to the court of Denmark, to eſpouſe the Princeſs ANNE in name of James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England. Being poſſeſſed of a great eſtate, he appeared with all the luſtre and magnificence with which the wealth of Scotland could adorn him, and that chiefly on his own expences. In 1593, he made a noble foundation of a college at Aberdeen, and obtained from the Crown, for the ſupport of it, the lands and houſes belonging to ſome of the religious at Aberdeen, which had not been ſued off before the Reformation.

‖ *Pub. Records, and Haddington's Collections, page* 92, 93, *&c.*

† *This Earl was a zealous promoter of the Reformation, but oppoſed all violent proceedings in that affair. When the Confeſſion of Faith was preſented to Parliament, in* 1560, *the Earl of Mariſchal ſtood up, and ſaid,* " *It is long ſince I carried ſome* " *favour to the truth, and was ſomewhat zealous for the Roman religion; but this* " *day hath fully reſolved me of the truth of the one, and the falſehood of the other;* " *for, ſeeing (my Lords) the biſhops, who, by their learning, can, and for the zeal* " *they ſhould have for the truth, would, as I ſuppoſe, gainſay any thing repugnant to* " *it, ſay nothing againſt the Confeſſion we have heard, I cannot think but it is the* " TRUTH OF GOD, *and the contrary of it is falſe deteſtable doctrine*".

illuſtrious anceſtors into the notes. This great man was born at INVERUGIE, in this pariſh, and was baptized 16th June 1696, by the names of JAMES FRANCIS EDWARD. * He early entered into the military ſervice abroad, roſe to the higheſt rank in the army, and was inferior to no general of his time in military capacity. He accompanied his brother Earl Mariſchal to the battle of *Dunblane*, and afterwards went abroad to ſeek preferment at the Spaniſh Court; but not finding a quick promotion there, he entered into the Ruſſian ſervice, and was by PETER the Great promoted to the rank of a general officer. He afterwards entered into the ſervice of FREDERIC III. King of Pruſſia, who raiſed him to the rank of Field Mariſhal. He commanded that king's armies ſometimes alone, and at other times along with his Majeſty, until the fatal battle of Hochkirchen, on the 14th October 1758. The Field Marſhal, returning from a ſeparate command, found that the King had encamped in a very improper place, and inſtantly told his Majeſty that DAUN would ſurprize them that night. His prediction proved too true; and the Field Marſhal, making a glorious defence, was unfortunately killed. He was buried in the church-yard of Hochkirchen, but the King of Pruſſia had his corpſe taken up, and ſent to Berlin, where he was again interred with the greateſt military honours. ‡

Antiquities.

* *Baptiſmal Regiſter of pariſh of St. Fergus.*

‡ The Field Mariſhal, with all his great qnalities was a very bad economiſt; and ſometimes abſented himſelf from Court when he could not pay his debts. On one of theſe occaſions, the Great FREDERIC called for him, and found him in his garden, employed in pointing paper cannon at 1500 pins of wood in different directions, ſo as to diſcover how he might pour the greateſt quantity of fire upon them, as their poſition changed. The King paid his General's debts, was delighted with the diſcovery of his amuſement, and augmented the number of pins to 12,000; after which, he and his general had many a *keen engagement* in the garden, which proved of great ſervice afterwards in the field.

Antiquities.—As this pariſh has, for upwards of 500 years, been only a part of a larger eſtate, and never divided into ſmall properties, we cannot expect to find ſtately manſions here. Some peices of ſtone and lime are to be met with, hard by the mouth of the Ugie, where it falls into the ſea, and here, it is ſaid, was the ancient reſidence of the family of Cheyne. They afterwards built another caſtle, to which they alſo gave the name of INVERUGIE,* at the diſtance of more than a mile weſtward, on the ſame ſide of the river. The ſite of this caſtle does honour to the judgement and good taſte of its founder. Here the Ugie forms a ſemicircle before the caſtle, and the area of this ſemicircle is terminated, by *Mount-Pleaſant*, a ſteep riſing ground on the oppoſite ſide of the river. The caſtle is now in ruins, but the two courts are almoſt entire; part of them ſerves as a granery, and part is uſed as a brewery for porter and beer. Within a few paces of the wall of the North court, are the remains of an *ice-houſe*, which perhaps was the firſt of the kind in this country.—On an eminence N. W. from the caſtle, there is an artificial moat, where, it is probable, the ancient proprietors held their courts for the diſtribution of juſtice.

Character and Manner of Living.—The people in general are very hoſpitable, kind to ſtrangers, intelligent and contented. They have ſuch an attachment to their native ſoil, that few of them chuſe to leave it. From Buchan there never were any emigrations, and indeed there can be no reaſon for

* This continued to be the reſidence of the ſucceeding proprietors, until the attainder of Lord Mariſchal, who unfortunately engaged in the rebellion 1715. The preciſe time when this caſtle was built is not known; but as one part of it, now in ruins, was called the *Cheyne's-Tower*, it is probable that it was built by that family.

any, as every man, who is diſpoſed to work, can always have good employment and good wages, either as a mechanic or a labourer. Although few of the farmers have leaſes, from many years experience, they conſider themſelves as perfectly ſecure, and in no danger of being removed, while they live peaceably and are punctual in the payment of their rents, which are very moderate, when compared with thoſe of the neighbouring eſtates. They are ſenſible the heritor could have more rent than he draws from them. He has aboliſhed all cuſtoms and ſervices; and, if any of them build good houſes, a proper allowance is made. The kind and indulgent manner in which they are treated by the proprietor, has ſtrongly attached them to him. They are ſenſible that he is happy in beholding their proſperity, and will not from thence take any advantage to raiſe their rents above what they can bear. The manner of living here is greately changed within the laſt thirty years. The farmers now appear at church and market dreſſed in Engliſh ſuperfine cloth, and many of their wives and daughters in cloaks and bonnets. The man-ſervant is as expenſively arrayed as his maſter, and the dreſs of the maid-ſervant is little inferior to that of her miſtreſs. The food of the inhabitants formerly conſiſted chiefly of oat meal, and ſometimes of fiſh, but theſe generally ſalted and dryed; owing to this cauſe, the ſcurvy was a common diſeaſe. They raiſed few vegetables, and turnips were often brought by ſea from Aberdeen. Every cottager now has his turnips, cabbages, potatoes; and many of the farmers have their mutton, fed by themſelves for ſummer food, and the greateſt part of them kill a fed ox or cow, for winter proviſion.†

NUMBER

† From the middle of November 1792, to the firſt of January 1793, 40 fat cattle, weighing from 14 to 24 ſtone, were killed in this pariſh for food during the winter, beſides a conſiderable number of ſheep.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF DOLLAR,

(COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN, PRESBYTERY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN WATSON, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Name.

THE word DOLLAR is ſaid to be Gaelic. According to ſome it was formerly ſpelt *Dollard*, from *doll*, a plain, or vale, and *ard*, a hill, or high land. This is perfectly applicable to its real ſituation, the principal part of the pariſh being a beautiful plain or valley, of about an Engliſh mile in breadth, lying along the foot of a high range of hills, known by the name of *the Ochil-Hills*. According to others, it may be expreſſed *Doillar*, ſignifying a hidden or concealed place. This alſo is expreſſive of its real ſituation; which is low and not ſeen at any great diſtance, when one approaches it in any direction.

Situation, Extent, Form, and Appearance.—It is ſuppoſed to be equally diſtant from Stirling, Kinroſs, and Dumfermline; and is reckoned about 12 Engliſh miles from each. The

middle and principal part of the pariſh, in which both the church and the town ſtand, is an extenſive and gently ſloping plain, beautifully interſperſed with ſmall villages, farm houſes, and incloſures; and, taking in with it a ſmall part of Muckart on the Eaſt, and Tillicoultry on the Weſt, it forms a kind of amphitheatre, of an oval figure, of about 3 miles in length, and one in breadth; bounded by the Ochil-hills on the North, and a riſing ground on the South. This beautiful plain would ſeem to have been laid down, and ſmoothed by the great hand of nature, to be the ſcene of ſports and exerciſes, ſuch as thoſe of the ancient Olympic games. It is of a ſouthern expoſure; and, when viewed from the riſing grounds, particularly on the South, the pleaſed and admiring beholder would be ready to pronounce it the moſt delightful ſpot in the world.

River and Fiſh.—The water of *Dovan*, which runs from E. to W. nearly divides the pariſh. The Dovan is not navigable, being a ſmall but beautiful ſtream of pure limpid water. Its channel, at a medium, may be about 100 feet in breadth. Here it gently glides over a bed of pebbles, where, finding itſelf at eaſe (as it were,) after having been daſhed and broken in its narrow and rugged channel, through the pariſhes of Glendovan and Muckart, it ſeems to ſport itſelf in many beautiful meanders; winding from ſide to ſide of the valley, as if loth to leave the delightful haughs of Dollar. But at times, when ſwelled by heavy rains, which come down in torrents from the hills, it ſuddenly overflows its banks to a conſiderable extent, to the no ſmall damage of the farmer, whoſe lands are ſituated by the ſide of it. The river, being ſmall, does not admit of many kinds of fiſh; yet there are very fine freſh-water trouts, of a conſiderable ſize, taken in it, as well as ſparrs, in great numbers. In harveſt,

ſea

ſea trouts are likewiſe killed in it, from 2 lib. to 4 lib. weight. And, in the ſeaſon, ſalmon are caught from 5 lib. to 20 lib. About 20 or 30 years ago, ſalmon were found in Dovan in great plenty; but, from the illegal and murderous manner of killing them with ſpears, at an improper ſeaſon, their numbers of late have greately decreaſed. As there are but few or none killed now, but by gentlemen in the way of ſport, or by ſome of the poorer ſort of the people, for the uſe of their families, the prices cannot well be aſcertained.

Bridges.—There was a very good ſtone bridge over the Dovan nearly oppoſite to the church; but ſome years ago it was carried down by a flood. At preſent, a wooden bridge is about to be put over it, near the ſame place, by the voluntary ſubſcriptions of a few public-ſpirited perſons in the neighbourhood; which will be of very great convenience to the people in this place, particularly upon the ſabbath; as many of the pariſhioners have to croſs the Dovan in their way to church. The want of a bridge would not have been felt ſo much here 20 or 30 years ago, as the people in this place were very expert at croſſing the river on *ſtilts*. † And there are ſtill ſome who croſs it in this way. But ſince the time that the bridge was built, this practice has been generally laid aſide.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The air in this place is remarkably pure and healthy; the country being free and open, neither cumberd

† Theſe ſtilts were two branches of a tree, of a proper ſtrength, with a cleft or ſmall branch preſerved in each, of a ſufficient wideneſs to receive a perſon's foot, about 18 or 20 inches from the root end. Upon which the perſon being mounted, with a foot on each cleft or projecting branch, and the top or ſmall end of the ſtilt in each hand, they ſtalked through the river at the fords. This they called *ſtilting*.

cumbered with woods, nor infected with marſhes The purity and ſweetneſs alſo of the water, (which, perhaps, is exceeded by none,) coming through rock or ſand, and free of metallic ſubſtances, muſt alſo contribute greatly to the health of the inhabitants; and this bleſſing they uſually enjoy in an uncommon degree. As a remarkable inſtance of this, the miniſter, in the whole courſe of his parochial viſitation from houſe to houſe, did not find one ſingle ſick perſon in the pariſh; and ſcarcely any complaining of ailmentts, ſuch as coughs, ſhortneſs of breath, &c.; though it was in the month of December, when complaints of this nature are more frequent; eſpecially among ſuch as are advanced in life. Some few were indeed labouring under the natural infirmities incident to old age; there being ſeveral who were arrived at the advanced age of 80 and upwards. The ſalubrity of the air is alſo much owing to the dryneſs of the ſoil, which readily imbibes the rains that fall upon it; while the many ſmall rivulets, which come down from the higher grounds, carry off the ſuperfluous waters, without allowing them to ſtagnate on the ſurface, and to breed noxious vapours to be exhaled into the air. Epidemical diſeaſes are therefore unknown here; except thoſe which are of a common and general nature. Such as the ſmall-pox, chin-cough, &c. The ſmall-pox, at times, carries off many of the children; inoculation not having yet got much into practice.

Soil and Surface, Sheep, Wool, and Cultivation.—The ſoil in this pariſh is of various kinds. That of the Ochil-hills, which lie towards the North, is partly rocky, partly moſſy, and partly gravel. The hills are covered with a beautiful green; but part of the ſoil being now waſhed off by the ſtorms, in the courſe of time, the rocks in ſome places begin to appear. They afford excellent paſture for ſheep; of

which

which about 1640 are fed upon that part of them belonging to this parish. The mutton, and especially the wool, produced upon the Ochils, (as they are sometimes called,) is considered as of a superior quality; particularly that upon the farm called *Craiginnan*, which is the property of the Duke of ARGYLL. Towards the foot of the hills, the soil, in general, is light and gravelly, causing a quick vegetation. In dry seasons, it is indeed apt to be parched; but in wet seasons, the crops are moderately good. The greater part of the flat-lying ground in the bottom is likewise of a light gravely nanature, and usually yields rather an early harvest. Along the banks of the Dovan, the soil is mostly of the haugh kind; and some of it a deep clay. Upon the south side of the Dovan, the ground is rather wettish and clayey, but, with proper attention and culture, it is capable of very considerable improvement. And some of the farms, which are under proper management, make very good returns.

Produce, Seasons, &c.—The ordinary crops raised in this parish, are barley, oats, pease, beans, and potatoes. There is also some wheat and hay; but not much. The usual time of sowing oats, pease, and beans, in this parish, in ordinary seasons, is the months of March and April, and the barley in May. It is usually over by the 20th of the month.—The harvest commonly begins towards the end of August, or beginning of September; and, excepting some late spots, is over by the tenth of October. As soon as the barley, oats, and pease are got in, the potatoes are taken up and housed, which concludes the harvest work.

Improvements.—Agriculture, in this parish, until within these few years, has continued much in the same state that it was about 150 years ago; the feuers, who possess the greatest

greateſt part of the pariſh, following the ſame ſyſtem of farming, that had been handed down to them by their fathers. What indeed proved an inſurmountable bar to improvement, was, the lands of different proprietors lying interſperſed with one another, commonly called *run-rig*, which wss a caſe that very much prevailed through many parts of Scotland; but it is now hardly known in this part of the country. About 16 years ago, a very conſiderable part of the beſt lands in the pariſh, which lay in that ſtate, were divided; when the different proprietors got their reſpective proportions of ground laid together, each by itſelf. This has been productive of ſeveral very deſirable conſequences; ſuch as, cutting off endleſs quarrels and diſputes, that were continually taking place between the different proprietors, or their tenants, about their encroaching or treſpaſſing upon one another; and ſo eſtabliſhing peace and harmony amongſt neighbours, inſtead of ſtrife and variance. It has alſo opened up a door to improvements of every kind. For, immediately upon the ground being divided, the different proprietors incloſed and ſub-divided, with ditch and hedge, their reſpective proportions of land. And the ſeveral incloſures are now alternately under oats, barley, hay, paſture, &c. to the no ſmall benefit of the proprietors, and the pleaſure of the traveller. Some late purchaſers are carrying on very conſiderable improvements in the modern ſtyle; the agreeable and beneficial effects of which are daily appearing.

Minerals.—This part of the country abounds in coal, of different qualities. Three coal-works are going on at preſent in this pariſh; two upon the South ſide of the Dovan; the one at Mellack, the property of the Duke of ARGYLL; the other cloſely adjoining to it, but belonging to Lord ALVA. Upon the North ſide of the Dovan, and near to the town

of

of Dollar, there is another coal-work, belonging alſo to the Duke of Argyll. Theſe works employ in whole about 18 working people; beſides a horſe gin for drawing the coals. From theſe coal-works, and thoſe of Blarngone, (in the pariſh of Foſſoway, but immediately upon the border of this pariſh on the S. E.) very great quantities of coals are annually carried many miles into Strathern, on the North ſide of the Ochil hills.—Iron-ſtone is alſo found in different parts of the pariſh, and ſaid to be of very excellent quality. It is working at preſent by the Dovan Company, who are now erecting a public work at Sauchie, ſome miles to the weſtward, in the pariſh of Clackmannan. * The Ochil hills conſiſt chiefly of whin-ſtone; but free-ſtone alſo is found in different places of the pariſh.

Hills, Rivulets, &c.—The only hills in this pariſh, are the Ochils. They begin in the pariſh of Dumblane, immediately Eaſt from the Sherriff-muir, and ſtretch in an eaſtern direction many miles into Fife. In this pariſh they are of conſiderable height; perhaps ſome thouſand feet. They are, as already obſerved, of a beautiful green; afford excellent paſture for ſheep, and produce mutton of the fineſt flavour.

* Some time ago, a vein of Lead was diſcovered in the Ochil hills, a little above the town of Dollar; and wrought by a Company for ſeveral years. From this work, a conſiderable quantity, both of Lead and of Copper Ore, is ſaid to have been ſhipped off for Holland. But it is ſaid that the Company, ſomehow diſagreeing among themſelves, gave it up. Nevertheleſs, it is believed, that if a Company of ſpirit were to make a thorough trial, it might turn to good account. Silver Ore, in conſiderable quantities, is likewiſe ſaid to have been found in the Glen of *Care*, or rather of *Cairn*, on the Weſt of Caſtle-Campbell; but that it did not anſwer the expence of working it. Pebbles, of conſiderable value, have alſo been found upon the top of a hill above Caſtle-Campbell, called the *White Wiſp*.

From their verdant ſides, many beautiful rivulets of the fineſt water are daily gliding down, for the health and refreſhment of the inhabitants who dwell below.

Roads.—There are two high-ways paſſing through this pariſh, leading from Stirling to Kinroſs. The one is upon the ſouth ſide of the Dovan; and the other upon the north ſide. That upon the ſouth ſide of the Dovan is only in part formed, but not gravelled; and as it paſſes through clay grounds, it is ſcarcely paſſable in winter. But that upon the north ſide of the Dovan, as it paſſes along the foot of the Ochil hills, where the bottom is a hard channel, is equally firm and paſſable at all ſeaſons; and therefore is moſt frequented. The proper ſtage upon that road, between Stirling and Kinroſs, is Dollar. The greateſt fault of it is, that it is too narrow; for, in ſome places, two carriages meeting can do no more than paſs. Were it only widened a little, nature has ſufficiently gravelled it. They who have marked it out at firſt, humouring the nature of the ground along the foot of the hills, have formed it much after the manner of a ſerpentine walk. It is very much frequented, not only by thoſe who travel from Stirling to Kinroſs, but alſo by thoſe who go to Perth, Dundee, &c.

Population.—The population of this pariſh has decreaſed very little within theſe 40 years.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF DOLLAR.

No. of ſouls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter, -	517
Ditto in 1792, - -	510
Decreaſe	7

FAMILIES, &c.			
No. of families in the town,			51[illegible]
— Ditto in the country,			71
— Seceders of all denominations,		-	17
AGES, and SEXES.	*Mal.*	*Fem.*	*Tot.*
Children under 5	27	25	52
— Between 5 and 10	30	38	68
Between 10 and 20	31	37	68
Persons aged 20 and upwards, -			322
Total			510

CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.	
No. of proprietors, -	19
— Ministers, -	1
— School-masters, -	1
— Merchants, -	2
— Miners, -	18
— Musicians, .	4
— Corn millers, -	2
No. of Mechanics,	24
(viz.) — Smiths, -	3
— Masons, -	2
— Wrights, or joiners,	2
— Weavers, .	5
— Tailors, .	4
— Shoe-makers, .	2
— Dyers, .	2
— Coopers, .	1
— Bakers, .	1
— Butchers, .	2
	— 24
— Carters, .	1
— Excise officers, .	1
— Keepers of public houses,	2
— Male servants, .	30
— Female ditto, .	29
— Servants, chiefly men, employed at the bleach-field, in the heat of the season,	30
— Poor on the roll, yearly,	9

EXTRACT from the REGISTER of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS, *for the last ten years, viz. from the first of January* 1783, *to the first of January* 1793.

YEARS.	BIRTHS.	MARRIAGES.	DEATHS.
1783	13	3	14
1784	14	4	
1785	16	4	16
1786	9	2	14
1787	12	2	14
1788	16	4	10
1789	19	6	6
1790	12	6	11
1791	11	4	17
1792	21	0	9
Total	143	35	119
Annual average	$14\frac{3}{10}$	$3\frac{5}{10}$	$11\frac{9}{10}$

Provisions

Proviſions and Labour.—The price of barley, oats, meal, &c. are regulated by the fiars of Clackmannan, the head town in the county. The price of butcher meat is uſually from 3d. to 4½d. *per* lib. Dutch weight; a good hen ſells at 1s; chickens from 4d. to 6d. each, according to their age and ſize; eggs from 3d. to 4d. *per* dozen. † The ordinary price of butter at preſent is 6d. *per* lib; cheeſe 3½. The wages of men labourers are from 10d. to 1s. *per* day; in harveſt, they receive 13d. or 14d. *per* day; and for cutting hay, 1s. 6d. The wages of women who work without doors, at hay-making, weeding potatoes, &c. are 6d. *per* day; except in harveſt, when they receive 10d. *per* day: out of which wages, both men and women furniſh their own proviſions. The average annual wages of farm ſervants, of men that are able to hold the plough, threſh the barn, &c. when they eat in the houſe, are 6 l; and 2 l. 10 s. for women. A maſon's wages are from 1 s. 8d. to 2 s. *per* day; a wright's, or joiner's wages, from 1 s. 6d. to 1 s. 8d; a tailor's wages, 8d; and a ſlater's, 2 s. *per* day.

Bleachfields and Mills.—There is a very fine bleachfield in this pariſh beautifully ſituated on the banks of the Dovan. It was erected by Mr WILLIAM HAIG, the preſent proprietor, in the year 1787. The machinery, which is excellent, is driven by water from the Dovan, while the canals, boilers, &c. are plentifully ſupplied, at all ſeaſons, with the fineſt filtrated water from the hills. The trade of this field has much increaſed ſince its firſt commencement. For the firſt and ſecond years, there were ſcarcely 6 acres of ground under cloth. Whereas, in the preſent year, 1793, there are 20 acres covered with it. The greateſt part of the cloth, bleached at this field, is the diaper, or table linen of Dunfermline, the firſt

† Till within theſe two or three years, a hen might have been bought for 9d; chickens for 4d. per pair; and eggs for 6d. per dozen.

firſt town in *Britain*, (we may even ſay in the *World*,) for this manufacture; the table linen made there being, both in point of quality and variety of patterns, incomparably ſuperior to what is to be found any where elſe. Nor can any place ſupply the demands to London, and other places for that article, upon the ſame terms. Beſides, the author is well informed, that improvements are daily making in ſeveral branches of that buſineſs, which promiſe to be of great ſervice with regard to the elegance of the patterns *. The new chemical method of bleaching, by the *oxygenated muriatic acid*, has been tried at this field with much ſucceſs. In the year 1790, Mr Haig gained a premium from the Honourable Board of Truſtees for that method of bleaching. Since that time, he hath made ſeveral valuable diſcoveries, both as to the preparation and application of this acid, and finds it very uſeful; particularly at the end of the ſeaſon, when the ſun ſo greatly loſes its influence. He then finiſhes off goods by this method of bleaching, which otherwiſe could not be done until the next year. By this method, he bleaches cotton goods through the whole ſeaſon; and finds it much better adapted for cotton than for linen. In this pariſh there are two mills for grain, one of them has machinery for making barley, and rollers for grinding malt. There are alſo two waulk mills for ſcouring cloth, &c.

Church, School, and Poor—The Duke of Argyll is ſuperior and patron * as well as titular of the tithes. The value of the

* Some light cotton goods have, for ſome years paſt, been ſent here from Glaſgow; and, by reaſon of the exceeding fineneſs of the water, have been returned with a moſt excellent colour; very much to the ſatisfaction of the employers.

* The greateſt part of the pariſh was formerly the property of that family. But in the year 1605, it was feued out by ARCHIBALD Earl of ARGYLL, and

the living, excluſive of the manſe and glebe, has, for ſome years paſt been conſidered, at an average, to be about 80l. The church was rebuilt in the year 1775, and is conſidered as very neat for a country church. The manſe, at preſent, is out of repair.—Mr John M'Arbrea, the pariſh ſchool-maſter, teaches Engliſh, Latin, writing, arithmetic, &c. and is much reſpected. His fixed ſalary is only 100l. Scotch, but he draws the intereſt of 560 merks Scotch, of ſunk money, beſides perquiſites, as precentor and ſeſſion clerk, ‡ &c.—The poor upon the roll, are ſupported by the public collections on ſabbath, and the intereſt of ſeveral ſums of money, ſunk by different perſons † for that purpoſe. They receive their ſtated allowance monthly, which amounts to about 17l. Sterling *per annum*; beſides occaſional ſupplies perſons or families in diſtreſs, which amount to about 4 l. or 5 l. Sterling more. There have been no beggars in this pariſh in the memory of man.

Antiquities.

and Dame AGNES DOUGLAS, Counteſs of Argyll, reſerving only Caſtle-Campbell, and two farms in the neighbourhood.

‡ The ſchoolmaſters, eſtabliſhed in this pariſh, have, from time immemorial, been men of a liberal education, and ſeveral men of eminence have been taught at this ſchool. Many of Mr M'ARBREA's ſcholars fill reſpectable places in the church, both in the eſtabliſhment and the ſeceſſion. The ſchool was erected in the reign of King CHARLES I. as appears from the decreet of locality, dated 1640, for 100 merks Scotch. In 1766, the heritors added 50 merks. The above 500 merks were ſunk by one ARCHIBALD PATERSON, merchant in Edinburgh July 18, 1652; and the other 60 by one KIRK, in Dollar.

† Mr JOHN GRAY was ordained in the year 1709. He was the firſt that was ſettled in this pariſh after the Revolution. He was commonly ſtiled *the Baron*; from his having, while miniſter here, purchaſed two baronies of land: Firſt, that of Teaſſes in Fyfe, for which he paid upwards of 3,333 l. Sterling. Afterwards he purchaſed the barony of Foſſoway, in Perthſhire, for which he paid

Antiquities.—In the neighbourhood of the town of Dollar, there are two little round mounds *, about a quarter of a mile diſtant from each other. But the principal antiquity in this pariſh, is the venerable remains of CASTLE CAMPBELL †: anciently

paid upwards of 1,611 l. Sterling. At his death, he left for the uſe of the poor in this pariſh, 300 merks Scotch money.—Miſs JEAN GRAY, his only child, of reſpectable memory, ſome few years before her death, which happened in the year 1792, ſold both of theſe baronies of land; that of Teaſſes for 13,500 l. Sterling, and that of Foſſaway for 6,500 l. Sterling; amounting in whole to 20,000 l. Sterling. At her death ſhe left many conſiderable legacies: among theſe there was 50l. Sterling to the poor of this pariſh, and a very elegant folio bible to the kirk-ſeſſion, for the uſe of the miniſter.

* In the one of theſe, ſome years ago, were found two urns, filled with human bones; but upon what occaſion, or by whom they were depoſited there, is not known. The other mound remains in the ſame ſtate it hath been time immemorial.—Towards the end of the laſt century, a man was burnt for a wizard, at the foot of the Gloom Hill, not many yards from the town of Dollar.

† It would ſeem not to be now known, *when* or *by whom* this venerable pile of building was firſt erected. But the ruins plainly ſhew, that it had been deſigned for a place of ſtrength; and therefore was probably built in the turbulent days of old, when family feuds ſo unhappily prevailed among the Scotch barons. Nor can we diſcover the preciſe period when it came into the poſſeſſion of the family of ARGYLL: But, from the inventary of their titles, that family appears to have poſſeſſed that barony, and the lands belonging to it, called the LORDSHIP OF CAMPBELL, ſo far back as the year 1465. The lands were then held of the biſhop of Dunkeld. Formerly, it went by the name of the CASTLE OF GLOOM: but for what reaſon, we are not certain. Tradition, indeed, which wiſhes to inform us of every thing, reports, that it was ſo called from the following circumſtance: A daughter of one of our Scotch Kings, who then reſided at Dunfermline, happening to fall into diſgrace for ſome improper behaviour, was, by way of puniſhment, ſent and confined in this caſtle; and ſhe, (not reliſhing her ſituation, which probably might be in ſome vault or other) ſaid, that it was a *gloomy priſon* to her. Hence, ſays tradition, it came to be called the Caſtle of Gloom. Very near to it

anciently the occaſional reſidence of the Noble Family of Argyll: a family which, for ages, has been eminently diſtinguiſhed

it on the Coaſt, there is a green hill, which ſtill goes by the name of *Gloom-Hill*, the property of Mr John Moir, writer to the ſignet.

And now that we have mentioned tradition, we ſhall preſent the reader with an anecdote concerning this place, from the ſame ſource, which, perhaps, may be more curious than true. In going down from the caſtle, towards the point of the rock which overhangs the glens, there is a paſſage cut down through the rock to the ſide of the burn, in the bottom of the glen. This paſſage is ſaid to be from top to bottom more than 100 feet deep, and ſix feet wide. The deſign of it was to get water conveyed, or brought up from the burn or rivulet below, in the time of a ſiege. This ſeems the more likely, as it appears to have been cut out with ſteps, which are now moſtly filled up with earth. This paſſage, partly from the trees, and partly from the frightful rocks overhanging it, is now become ſo dark and gloomy, that a perſon can ſee but a very little way down into it: and indeed, to look into it, would be ſufficient to make a perſon of weak nerves ſhudder. It is called KEMP'S SCORE or CURT, from its having been made by one of that name; who is ſaid to have been a man of gigantic ſtature and ſtrength, and at the ſame time of a very bold and reſolute temper. It is reported, that he had committed many depredations, and at laſt was ſo daring as to enter the palace at Dunfermline, and carry off the King's dinner; but that a young nobleman, who happened to be in diſgrace for improper behaviour towards the King's daughter, hearing of it, purſued the ſaid Kemp, and having cut off his head, threw the body into the water of Dovan, a little above the back mill, and, as his name was WILLIAM, ſo the place where this happened, is called WILLIE'S POOL, to this day. But on his carrying the head with him to Court, he obained his pardon, and was received into favour again.

But to return to the caſtle, that ancient ſeat of the Argyll Family: The name was, by an act of the Scotch Parliament, in, or before the year 1493, changed to that of the *Caſtle of Campbell*, by which name it has ever ſince been denominated. It is reported, that this was amongſt the firſt of thoſe places in Scotland, where the ſacrament of the Lord's Supper was diſpenſed, after the Reformation. And it is certain, from his own hiſtory, that the famous JOHN KNOX, the Scotch reformer, did preach here. For he tells us, that, upon his being called over by the Engliſh Congregation at Geneva, who had choſen him for their paſtor; he ſent over his family before him, but he himſelf

guiſhed for their attachment to religion, liberty, and patriotiſm. And the preſent worthy head, and repreſentative of that noble Family, treading in the ſteps of his illuſtrious anceſtors, dignifies and adorns the exalted ſtation which he fills. By the lapſe of time, and the violence of ſtorms, a very conſiderable part of Caſtle-Campbell is now fallen down; and other parts of it are nodding over their foundations. The tower is yet nearly entire. The aſcent is by a ſpiral ſtair, which is continued to the top. It is viſited by moſt ſtrangers who come here; and though it is a pretty fatiguing walk up to it, yet when they reach the top of the tower, which is of conſiderable height, they are much pleaſed, not only with the

ſelf remained behind in Scotland, for ſome time; during which, he paſſed to ARCHIBALD, whom he ſtiles "the Old Earl of ARGYLL," then reſiding at the Caſtle of Campbell, and there he taught, or preached, certain days. It is not improbable, therefore, that he diſpenſed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there, at the ſame time. One of the company, who was then ſtaying with the Earl at Caſtle Campbell, was the laird of Glenorchy, one of the anceſtors of the preſent family of BREADALBANE; who importuned the Earl to deſire Mr KNOX to ſtay ſome time with them; but Mr Knox could not conſent to it. This ARCHIBALD was the 4th Earl of ARGYLL; and is ſaid to have been the firſt man of quality who embraced the Proteſtant Religion in Scotland, and contributed all in his power to bring about the Reformation.

The Caſtle of Campbell continued to be the occaſional reſidence of the family of Argyll, as appears from the ſervices which the vaſſals were obliged, by their charters, to perform to the family, when reſiding there; until that magnificent building was burnt down by the Marquis of MONTROSE, about the year 1644; and ever ſince it has been in ruins. And not only the Caſtle of Campbell, but the whole of the pariſhes, both of Dollar and Muckart, were burnt; the inhabitants being vaſſals of the family of Argyll, excepting one houſe in Dollar, which they imagined to belong to the Abbey of Dunfermline. There was likewiſe only one houſe ſaved from the flames, in Muckart; which they imagined to be in the pariſh of Foſſoway; being nearly adjoining to it. Beſides that, there was a ſheep-houſe that eſcaped the general conflagration. Every other houſe in both pariſhes was, by the Grahams, burnt to the ground.

view, but more particularly with the ſurrounding ſcene, which is truly enchanting.

Romantic Scenery around the Caſtle.—The ſituation of theſe venerable ruins is ſomewhat retired backwards amongſt the hills, with a beautiful opening before it, as it were a kind of viſta, through which to view the plains below: And being pretty high, it commands a conſiderably extenſive proſpect towards the Forth, and the adjacent country. It is ſituated upon the top of a round mound, which would ſeem to have been partly formed by the hand of nature, and partly finiſhed by art. It ſtands a little back from the point of a high rock; having a deep ravine or glen upon each hand; with very ſteep banks, whoſe declivity commences from the very foot of the walls on both ſides, and is almoſt wholly inacceſſible. In the bottom of the glens, run murmuring rivulets of the pureſt water, which come down from the mountains behind, and unite their ſtreams immediately below the caſtle. Each of the rivulets furniſhes a beautiful caſcade, to entertain the eye of their viſitants, and ſomewhat reward them for the fatigue they have had in climbing the hill. The mound on which the caſtle ſtands, was formerly disjoined from the mountains behind, with a foſsè, or ditch, ſhelving down to the bottom of the glen on both ſides, which renders it almoſt inacceſſible on every ſide; the entry, then, being by a drawbridge, which was let down or taken up as occaſion required. The banks of the glens, on both ſides, are beautifully adorned with natural woods, which nearly cover the faces of the rugged rocks with which this romantic ſcene is interſperſed. It is almoſt ſurrounded with hills. Immediately behind it, is the hill called the *White Wiſp*; which ſo much overtops all its fellows, that it furniſhes a rich and extenſive proſpect. From this elevated ſituation, looking towards the South,

South, may be ſeen the Frith of Forth, with the adjacent country, as far as the hill of Tintoc in Clydeſdale. Then turning to the North, one ſees the moſt part of the ſhires of Perth and Fife, as far Eaſt as Dundee, and the German Ocean; with the Lothians on the oppoſite ſide of the Forth. A little to the South-Weſt of the White Wiſp, is the place called the *King's Seat;* where, according to tradition, the kings of Scotland, then reſiding at Dunfermline, ſat, and viewed the hunting of the wild bears, which then haunted amongſt theſe hills; whence ſeveral places, particularly in the farm of Craiginnan, immediately above the Caſtle, are named, ſome of them, *the Bear's den*, and others, *the Bear's Know*, to this day. Thus, the ſcene around this ancient ſeat of Campbell, conſiſting of rocks, and woods, and glens, and mountains, contains a pleaſing mixture of the beautiful, the picturesque, and the awfully romantic.

Literary Shepherd.—There is living at preſent in this pariſh, in a very advanced age, a man who was bred up, and lived merely as a ſhepherd, and who received only a common education; and yet poſſeſſes a valuable library of books, containing upwards of 370 volumes; conſiſting of folios, quartos, octavos, duodecimos, and decimo-quartos. They are upon many different ſubjects, as divinity, hiſtory, travels, voyages, &c. beſides magazines of various kinds, ſuch as the Scots, the Univerſal, and the Chriſtian magazines; a complete ſet of the Spectator, Guardian, Tatler, Rambler, &c. They are all of them his own chuſing and purchaſing. They are neatly bound, and lettered on the back. His name is upon a printed ticket, and paſted on the inſide of the board of each volume; with a mark, generally of blue paper, cut on purpoſe, and placed in each volume, to prevent folding in the leaves. The books are all clean, and in excellent order. Be-

ſides theſe, he has ſeveral volumes of pamphlets, &c. lying in numbers unbound. His name is JOHN CHRISTIE: he was born in this pariſh, and baptized on the 12th of October 1712, and has lived in it from his infancy. His brother William, and his ſiſter Margaret, who are a few years younger, live in the ſame houſe with him, and all the three remain unmarried.

General Character, &c.—The people are ſober, regular, and induſtrious in their different profeſſions and employments; and live in peace and harmony with one another. The common employment of the women, except ſuch as are engaged with farmers for husbandry work, is that of ſpining wool for the manufacturers in Stirling, Bannockburn, &c. They all enjoy, in their reſpective ſtations, a reaſonable ſhare of the conveniences and comforts of life; and ſome ſeem well contented with the condition in which Providence has placed them. They are much of the ordinary ſize, and ſpeak the Engliſh language tolerably well, without any remarkable provincial dialect.

NUMBER

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF MORDINGTON.

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, PRESBYTERY OF CHIRNSIDE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.)

By the Rev. M GEORGE DRUMMOND, *Minister.*

Situation, Form, Extent, Erection, Etymology, &c.

THIS parish is situated in the S. E. corner of the county of Berwick. Its borders are washed on the South by the river Whitadder, and on the East by the German Ocean, near which it joins the lands belonging to the town of Berwick upon Tweed, commonly called *Berwick Bounds*. Its form is irregular, much resembling the letter g.—Its length from S. to N. is between 3 and 4 miles; its breadth towards the northern extremity is above two miles, though at one place, towards the South, it is only the breadth of the minister's glebe, which is all that separates the parish of Foulden from the Berwick bounds. Its original extent was very small, consisting only of the barony of Mordington, and the estate of Edrington, till the year 1650; when the lands of Lammerton, (of much greater extent than the whole of what before that

that period conſtituted the pariſh,) were disjoined from the pariſh of Ayton, and annexed to Mordington. Lammerton had originally been either a ſeparate pariſh, or a chapel of eaſe to Ayton. * The building in which public worſhip was performed ſtill remains, and is now the burying place of the family of Lamerton. The writer of this article has not been able to learn the etymology of *Mordington*. *Lammerton* is probably derived from the French, *la mer*, expreſſive of its ſituation, being immediately on the ſea ſide,

Surface and Soil.—On the South, towards the river Whitadder, the ground is flat, and riſes by a gentle and gradual aſcent to the North, for more than half the length of the pariſh; when it attains a very conſiderable elevation above the level of the ſea, to which the lands again gradually deſcend on the eaſt of this ridge. For ſome ſpace from the Whitadder, the ſoil is a ſtiff clay, well adapted for wheat and beans; from thence to the ſea ſide, the land is a light loam, on a rotten rocky bottom, which renders it excellent for raiſing turnips and found for grazing ſheep. The moſt elevated part of the ridge is thin and poor, though the greateſt

* The church or chapel of LAMMERTON, is noted to have been the place where King JAMES IV. of Scotland was married to MARGARET, daughter of HENRY VII. of England, in the year 1503; which paved the way for the happy Union, firſt, of the two Crowns, and afterwards of the two kingdoms. Some alledge, that it was built on purpoſe for the celebration of that marriage. A tradition has long prevailed in this part of the country, that, on account of the ceremony of his marriage having been performed in this chapel, the King of Scotland granted to the clergyman of this pariſh, and his ſucceſſors, in all time coming, the liberty of *marrying people without proclamation of banns*. It does not appear, however, from any of the hiſtories of theſe times, which the author has conſulted, that there is any foundation for this tradition.

eſt part of it has been plowed, and it ſeems all capable of cultivation.

Climate and Seaſons.—The dryneſs of the ſoil, and its vicinity to the ſea, render the air pure and healthy, and occaſion a quick and early vegetation. There are no diſeaſes peculiar to this diſtrict. In the lower part of the pariſh, as in moſt of the flat grounds in this part of the country, the ague was formerly prevalent among the lower claſſes of the people. The cauſe of that diſtemper, which aroſe chiefly from the exhalation of the vapours from the ſtagnated water, in wet and marſhy grounds, being now in a great meaſure removed, by the mode that is ſo generally adopted through this county of draining and incloſing the fields, the diſeaſe is leſs frequent. And the ſame reaſon may perhaps be given for the decreaſe of conſumptive complaints, throughout the whole of the lower parts of Berwick-ſhire. The prejudices of the country people in this quarter, againſt inoculation for the ſmall-pox, are gradually wearing away; and conſequently that diſtemper is becoming much more mild, and leſs deſtructive than formerly. Though the inhabitants in general are healthy and robuſt, yet there have not been many remarkable inſtances of longevity in this pariſh. Some however have appeared.

Agriculture.—The ſituation of this diſtrict, as well as the ſoil of a very conſiderable of it, is peculiarly favourable to the purpoſes of agriculture; the lands, in general, being of a dry and manageable ſoil, which the ſkilful farmer can turn to the greateſt advantage; and the climate being ſo favourable, that grain of every kind, even in the lateſt and moſt backward ſeaſons, is commonly brought to full maturity. Beſides which, it has the command of two of the beſt and moſt

moſt uſeful manures, lime and dung; both of which are to be got in the town and neighbourhood of Berwick, which is only 4 miles diſtant. Theſe local advantages have not been unattended to, by thoſe perſons who occupy the lands. Great quantities of lime are annually bought, and are employed both in improving the waſte lands, and in manuring thoſe that are already improved. And even dung is now beginning to be brought in conſiderable quantities from Berwick, a practice which, if perſevered in, muſt in time greatly add to the fertility of the ſoil; and, notwithſtanding the expence, with which the purchaſing and driving of it is attended, will, without doubt, ultimately turn out to the advantage both of the proprietors and tenants.

Produce and Exports.—Nor is leſs attention paid to the management than to the manuring of the lands. Unfettered by thoſe prejudices, and that obſtinate attachment to ancient cuſtoms, which are ſo great a bar to cultivation, and have ſo much retarded the progreſs of agriculture in other parts of Scotland, a ſpirit of improvement as well as of induſtry is diſcernible among the farmers in this and the neighbouring pariſhes: In conſequence of which, every ſpecies both of white and green crops are raiſed, and, in general, in the greateſt perfection; particularly barley, oats, peaſe, turnips, and artificial graſſes. Though the ſoil is, in many places, ſuitable for wheat and beans, yet they are raiſed in ſmaller quantities than the other kinds of grain; probably becauſe the former does not ſo readily fall in with a rotation, in which green crops are chiefly ſtudied, and becauſe there is not, in this part of the country, a ready market for the latter. Potatoes are raiſed not only for home conſumption, but great quantities from this neighbourhood are alſo annually

ſhipped

ſhipped at Berwick, and ſent to London, Newcaſtle, and different parts of York-ſhire. This pariſh alſo produces a much greater quantity of grain, than is ſufficient for the ſubſiſtence of its inhabitants, which is either diſpoſed of in Berwick, where it generally meets with a ready market, or ſold to the millers in the neighbourhood, many of whom carry on a great trade in meal, barley, &c.

Turnip Husbandry.—The time of ſowing and reaping the different kinds of grain, is the ſame with that of moſt of the other pariſhes in the lower part of Berwick-ſhire, with the advantage of being as early as any of them. Turnips are generally ſown from the end of May to the beginning of July. Though they are ſometimes ſown in what is called *broad-caſt*, that is on ridges made up in the ſame manner as thoſe on which barley, oats, or any other grain are commonly ſown; yet they are more frequently raiſed on drills, from 24 to 30 inches wide. This latter method is preferred, on account of its giving an opportunity for horſe hoeing, and thus occaſioning leſs manual labour, and conſequently leſs expence in thinning and cleaning them. When they are brought to maturity, which is generally about the month of October, they are made uſe of for feeding cattle and ſheep, either on the grounds on which they are raiſed, or on neighbouring graſs fields, into which they are carried; or they are brought home for the purpoſe of feeding black cattle in houſes or ſhades. On the light and dry ſoil, the feeding of ſheep on the ground where the turnips grow, is reckoned a moſt valuable improvement, as the land, looſe and friable, both by nature and by the frequent plowing neceſſary for raiſing the turnips, attains, from the conſtant trampling of the ſheep, a ſubſtance and ſolidity which makes it highly fit for

plowing; and from the great quantity of dung left on the ſurface, inſures a luxuriant crop of grain and hay in the following years. When the turnips are brought home for feeding cattle in the ſtall, they likewiſe become a uſeful and a valuable crop, not only from the immediate profit which ariſes from them, but alſo from the great return of manure which they afford for ſucceeding crops. From the favourable nature of the ſoil, the turnip-husbandry is conducted on an extenſive ſcale in this, and many of the neighbouring pariſhes. And as great attention is paid to the cultivation, ſo great improvements have of late been made in the conſtruction of the utenſils for ſowing and for facilitating the operations of the husbandman, in rearing this uſeful plant. The greateſt enemy to the culture of turnips, is a ſmall inſect, which in ſize and ſhape very much reſembles the flea. It commonly attacks the plants at a very early period, immediately after they begin to vegetate; and in ſome ſeaſons makes ſuch dreadful havock among them, as not only to injure, but frequently totally to deſtroy the crop. The beſt remedy againſt this evil is to ſow them early and very thick; 4 lib. at leaſt or 5 lib of ſeed to the Engliſh acre. This ſeems a method well calculated to inſure a crop of turnips. The fly ſeldom remains many days on the ground, and when ſuch a quantity of ſeed is ſown, though the firſt growth may be deſtroyed, yet as every ſucceeding ſhower, or even dewy night, for a conſiderable time, occaſions a freſh vegetation of ſeed that has been buried deeper in the ground; it is next to a certainty that ſome one of theſe growths will eſcape the ravages of the fly, and produce a ſufficiently plentiful crop. Many have been the inſtances of the propriety of this theory, in this pariſh, within theſe few years. In their more advanced ſtate, turnips are in ſome ſeaſons attacked by a caterpillar. Though the injury which they receive from it is frequently conſidera-

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ble, yet it is ſeldom ſo great as to occaſion a total failure of the crop.

Swediſh Turnip.—It may not be improper in this place to mention that the *Ruta Baga*, or the *Swediſh turnip*, has been cultivated with conſiderable ſucceſs by the two heritors of this pariſh. In a country like this, where ſtock occupies ſo much attention, and renders ſuch benefit to the farmer, ſome root or plant ſeems wanting to give to the cattle, between the time that the turnips begin to ſhoot, and of courſe, to ceaſe to afford nouriſhment, and the coming in of the graſs. The *ruta baga* ſeems admirably calculated for that purpoſe. For beſides being later of ſhooting than the turnip, it loſes not its nutritive qualities after it has ſhot, but retains all its juices and ſolidity: Whereas it is well known that a turnip, after it has put forth its flower, becomes dry, light, and reedy, and in every reſpect unfit for feeding either cattle or ſheep. Horſes too ſeem very fond of it; and one of the gentlemen above alluded to, has this winter given them to his out-lying young horſes, who eat them with great eagerneſs. He was led to try this experiment, from obſerving that when theſe young horſes broke out of the field, they conſtantly fed on the *ruta baga*, though in the ſame field there was a large quantity of turnips, which they never offered to touch. Another extraordinary quality of the *ruta baga* is, that it ſeems impoſſible to make it rot; though bit or trod upon by cattle or horſes, it never rots, but whatever part of the root is left, nay, if ſcooped out to the ſhell, it remains perfectly freſh, and in ſpring puts out a new ſtem. It is needleſs to obſerve that the oppoſite of this obtains with the turnip. The culture too of this valuable root is perfectly ſimple: When firſt attempted in this pariſh, the gentlemen

followed the rules laid down in the news-papers, viz. Raiſing the plants in a hot bed, and then tranſplanting them into the field. This method never anſwered; they roſe to no ſize; but on their trying them by the ſeed ſown in the field, and managed in every reſpect the ſame as turnips, (only ſown a month earlier) all their expectations were gratified, and good crops followed. Both roots and leaves are alſo excellent for culinary purpoſes; and for that cauſe, numbers of people in this neighbourhood now raiſe a few in their gardens for the pot. Before concluding this article, it is worth mentioning, as an example of what feeding will do, when carried on according to the above ſyſtem, by a conſtant ſucceſſion of green food: There is an ox at preſent in the pariſh, bred by one of the heritors, which, though only 4 years old, is allowed by all judges to be above an hundred ſtones weight; *i. e.* the weight of the four quarters only. He never has been houſed, and never got any thing but turnips, graſs, and a little hay. His dam, when in calf of him, was bought for 6 l. Sterling.

Rotation of Crops —The uſual rotation of crops is, firſt oats, then turnips; after theſe, barley with graſs ſeeds, which makes the ſucceeding crops hay; and the ground, upon which it is raiſed, is commonly allowed to remain in graſs for paſture ſome years; after which it is again taken up, and managed according to the above rotation. Two crops of oats are ſometimes allowed after the land has lain long in graſs: But in no other caſe are two white crops allowed to ſucceed each other, and the tenants are ſeldom permitted to have more than the half of their lands in tillage. Wheat is generally ſown on the ſtrong clay lands after plain fallow; and on the dry grounds it is ſometimes ſown after clover, ley, and ſome times on the lands where the turnip crop has failed. There is always

always, however, a great proportion of the lands in graſs; and as the fields are generally laid down in good order, they not only afford greater profit to the farmer in this ſtate, than he could derive from the ſcanty produce of a conſtant ſucceſſion of corn crops, but alſo amply repay him for the reſt he gives them, by the luxuriant crops which they yield when taken up, after having been paſtured for ſome years. By this mode of management, to which the tenants are bound down in their leaſes, the lands are not only kept clean, and freed from thoſe noxious weeds, which are ſo prejudicial to the grain ſown, or the plants raiſed on them, but are alſo prevented from being impoveriſhed by over-cropping.

River, Fiſh, and Mills.—The river Whitadder, which waſhes the ſouthern boundary of this pariſh abounds in trouts, eels, &c. And at certain ſeaſons of the year, large quantities of ſalmon, and ſalmon trouts, come up, which afford good ſport to the anglers. In ſpawning time, great numbers of ſalmon go up the river, even almoſt to its ſource, to depoſit their ſpawn. Till of late years, great havock uſed to be made among them at that ſeaſon, by the country people; but ſince the paſſing an act of the Legiſlature, for preſerving the fiſh in the river Tweed and the ſtreams running into it, theſe practices have been greatly checked, by the exertions of the magiſtrates and proprietors, to the great benefit of the valuable fiſhings on the Tweed. On the eſtate of Edington, beſides a mill for other kinds of grain, there are two mills for grinding wheat, in which about 300 bolls are every week made into flour.

Coaſt, and Sea Fiſh.—On the coaſt, which, towards the Eaſt of the pariſh, is very bold and rocky, there are abundance of

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all the kinds of fiſh that are to be found in the mouth of the Frith of Forth, which are ſold at very reaſonable rates. Lobſters and crabs are in plenty, but there are no oyſters or muſcles. The lobſters are almoſt all carried to London by ſmacks that come along the coaſt for that purpoſe, at ſtated intervals.

Minerals, Game, &c.—In the rocks on the coaſt, great quantities of lime-ſtone are to be found, though not of a good quality: Coal and iron ore alſo make their appearance, and immenſe blocks of free-ſtone of the fineſt ſort. The uſual kinds of game, which are to be found in the lower parts of Berwick-ſhire, are here in great plenty. On the higher grounds in this pariſh, dotterels are ſuppoſed to appear ſooner than on any parts in the ſouth of Scotland. Woodcocks are often found in the early part of the ſeaſon, poor, weak, and exhauſted, probably from their long flight acroſs the German Ocean.

Population.—If, as is generally ſuppoſed, the monopoly of farms, and the abridgement of labour, in conſequence of the improved ſtate of agriculture, uniformly operate to the diminiſhing the number of the inhabitants, certainly the decreaſe of the population of this pariſh ought of late years to have been conſiderable; as the whole lands, except what are in the poſſeſſion of the proprietors are, at preſent, farmed by three tenants, one of whom is not reſident, but farms to a conſiderable extent in a neighbouring pariſh. From any enquiries, however, which the incumbent has made, he does not find that the decreaſe has been ſo great as might have been expected. And he ſhould imagine, that, if a full inveſtigation were made of the matter, there would be leſs cauſe than is generally ſuppoſed, for regretting that union of farms, which

which now ſo generally prevails in this and many other parts of Scotland. It would indeed be unlucky, if a mode of farming, which muſt be allowed greatly to increaſe the moſt uſeful and moſt neceſſary commodities of a country, ſhould have a tendency to diminiſh the number of its inhabitants. For there cannot be a doubt, that by the preſent ſyſtem of huſbandry, which prevails in this part of the country, the grounds produce a much greater quantity of every ſpecies of grain, and afford ſuſtenance to double the number of cattle, ſheep, and ſtock of every kind, than they did before this mode was adopted. Its being carried on by fewer hands, in conſequence of the abridgement of labour, and a greater proportion of the lands being thrown into graſs, though it muſt no doubt diminiſh the number of the people employed in the purpoſes of agriculture, and in many pariſhes, where that forms the ſole employment of the inhabitants, render ſuch pariſhes leſs populous; yet it does not follow, as a juſt inference from thence, that the number of inhabitants in the country at large is thereby diminiſhed. It has only the effect of making the ſuperfluous hands betake themſelves to other occupations, and thus become the means of increaſing the number of our manufacturers, and furniſhing labourers for other uſeful and important purpoſes; ſuch as making and repairing the public roads, incloſing and draining the fields, &c. And there cannot be a doubt, that even in this county, where the monopoly of farms is perhaps carried to a greater length, than in any other county in Scotland, it will be found, when the extent of its whole population is aſcertained, that the number of its inhabitants is rather increaſed than diminiſhed: And that the diminution in many of the parochial diſtricts, from the cauſes above mentioned, is more than counter-balanced by the additional increaſe in the towns and villages. This reaſoning will appear the more concluſive,

ſive, when the fact is ſtated, that the population, whatever decreaſe it may have ſuffered within theſe 20 years, is actually nigh doubled, ſince the late eminent Dr Webſter made up his eſtimate of the whole population of Scotland:

For the number of ſouls at preſent in the pariſh is	335
Whereas the whole population, in 1755, was only	181
Hence there is a clear increaſe, of no leſs than	154
Of theſe there are males, - -	148
——————— females, - -	187
The number of families is exactly -	62

Employments.—Like moſt of the other pariſhes in the county of Berwick, the chief employment of its inhabitants is huſbandry. 'Till of late, there were indeed two manufactures carried on within the bounds of the pariſh, though none of them on an extenſive ſcale, the one a ſtarch, and the other a ſoap manufacture. They are both, however, given up, at leaſt for the preſent. Beſides thoſe employed in the purpoſes of agriculture, there are, as in all other country pariſhes, a few who follow ſuch mechanical occupations, as are requiſite for the accommodation of the inhabitants; ſuch as joiners and ſmiths, for manufacturing the utenſils of huſbandry—tailors, weavers, &c. There is one fiſhing boat belonging to the pariſh, which gives employment to 5 fiſhermen, who are as active and induſtrious as any in this part of the coaſt.

Prices of Labour.—The wages of men ſervants who get their board in the houſe, are from 7l. to 8l. a year; of women ſervants, from 3l. to 4l. Servants who have families, and live in ſeparate houſes, are not paid in money, but receive a certain quantity of meal or grain, have a cow grazed, their

their coals brought home, and ſeveral other perquiſites, the whole of which may amount to 16l. a year. Day-labourers commonly receive 1s. 4d. per day in ſummer, and 1s. in winter, except in hay-time, and during harveſt, when there is a conſiderable advance in their wages. Thoſe who take work by the piece generally earn a conſiderable deal more. There has, for theſe ſome years paſt, been a gradual riſe on the price of labour for weeding turnips, probably owing to the gradual extenſion of the turnip-huſbandry, which requires a greater number, and conſequently makes a greater demand for labourers. The wages are now 10d. per day; whereas, a few years ago, they ſeldom exceeded 6d. This ſpecies of labour is generally performed by women and boys, who are very expert at it.

Roads.—The great poſt road from Edinburgh to London, by Berwick and Newcaſtle, runs through the Eaſt ſide of this pariſh. The road from Dunſe to Berwick paſſes through the South part of it. This, as well as all the other great and leading roads through Berwick ſhire, is made and repaired by the money which is levied at toll-bars, which have lately been erected. The inſtitution of turnpikes has been of the greateſt utility to this country. Formerly, the roads were often in ſuch a ſituation, as to render impoſſible, either for carriages or horſes to get through; whereas, there is now an open and an eaſy communication, at all ſeaſons of the year, for horſes and carriages of every deſcription. The croſs roads are alſo in a rapid ſtate of improvement; they are made and up-held by the ſtatute labour, which is commuted.

Heritors, Rent, &c.—There are only two heritors in this diſtrict, both of whom reſide. The real rent of the pariſh is about 2000l. Sterling. The valued rent is 2,045l. 18s. 6d. Scotch. The monthly ceſs is 32l. 14s. 8d. Scotch.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church was built in the year 1757, and the manſe a conſiderable time before. The latter has lately undergone a complete and thorough repair, and is now comfortable and commodious. The ſtipend is paid partly in money, and partly in grain; the amount of the whole, including the glebe, is, *communibus annis*, from 85l. to 90l. ALEXANDER RENTON, Eſq; of Lammerton is patron. The author of this account has been greatly indebted to this gentleman, for his obliging information and aſſiſtance in drawing it up. The ſchool-maſter's ſalary is 7l. per annum. The poor are maintained chiefly by aſſeſſments on the heritors and tenants, the collections in the church being trifling. Until within theſe 10 years, there never was a perſon on the poor's roll. Since that time they have not been numerous. At preſent there are only two that receive a weekly aliment.

Antiquities.—Monuments of antiquity are not very numerous in this pariſh: We have, however, a camp of conſiderable extent, which, from its form, is unqueſtionably Daniſh. It is ſituated on the N. W. extremity of the pariſh, and commands a beautiful proſpect over a vaſt tract of country. It ſeems to have been a well choſen ſtation for the predatory excurſions of barbarous ages, and alſo for keeping up a communication with the ſea, from which it is at no great diſtance. It is ſurrounded by two deep trenches, which are ſtill very entire; the mounds of them ſeem once to have been faced with ſtones. Many of theſe ſtones have been carried away for different purpoſes: what is remarkable, a kind of ſtone has been found there, which is not to be ſeen in any other part of the country, except in the bed of the river Whitadder, from whence they muſt have been brought, a diſtance of near 4 miles, and all up-hill, which in thoſe days muſt have been

been a work of much toil and labour. The hill on which the camp ſtands is called *Hab* or *Hobcheſter*. A little to the South-Eaſt of this camp is a hill of no great height, but riſing abruptly, on which ſeveral unfortunate women were burnt for witch-craft, ſo late as the beginning of this century. It is ſtill called the *Witch's Know* §. EDINGTON CASTLE, the ruins of which now ſhow its former ſtrength, alſo demands our notice. It is ſituated on the banks of the Whittadder, near the ſouthern extremity of the pariſh, on a ſteep rock, totally inacceſſible from the Weſt; at the foot of which the river flows. In feudal times, it was an excellent protection againſt the inroads and depredations of our neighbours, on the other ſide of the Tweed. It has been a ſolid and ſubſtantial building, as what remains of the walls are compoſed of immenſe ſtones, ſtrongly cemented together.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The advantages, attending the ſituation of this pariſh, greatly overbalance any diſadvantages to which it may be liable. Situated within 4 miles of Berwick, (to which there is an excellent road,) the inhabitants can with great eaſe procure whatever may be wanted, either for convenience or luxury. There alſo they find a ready market for whatever they have to diſpoſe of; the farmer, in ſome degree, for his fat ſtock of every denomination, and always for his corn; and the cottager for his eggs, butter, cheeſe, or fowls. And, in like manner, they can be ſupplied with whatever they ſtand in need of, as well and as cheap in Berwick, as in any place in the North of England. Whatever elſe the farmer has to diſpoſe of, he there meets

§ The ſpot on which the execution took place was plainly to be ſeen about 4 years ago, but is now plowed up and cropped with the reſt of the field; a ſort of ſuperſtitious veneration for the ſpot, where human blood had been ſhed, ſeems to have preſerved it for many years.

with his buyers, whether it be wool, cattle or ſheep; Berwick being on the ſtraight road to Morpeth, Sunderland and Shields, the great marts of our ſtock; and Yorkſhire, in the ſame way, for our wool; the jobbers in theſe different articles repair thither at particular ſeaſons, and carry off whatever we have to part with. 'Tis difficult then to ſay, what would meliorate the ſituation of the inhabitants of this pariſh. Fuel preſents itſelf as the readieſt means of making their ſtate more comfortable. At preſent they are, 'tis true, 7 miles from coals; but as it is good road, and the tenants drive ſo many loads to each cottager, this inconvenience is the leſs felt, more eſpecially as the prime coſt is very moderate. But there is a reaſonable hope that even this drawback may ſhortly be removed; as there is no doubt, that, on the northern extremity of the pariſh, there is a workable coal, which, it is underſtood, the proprietor intends ere long to open up, and which will be of the greateſt benefit to the pariſh, as well as to the neighbourhood.

Character.—Actuated by a ſenſe of theſe advantages, the inhabitants of this pariſh are induſtrious, frugal and orderly, ſubmiſſive to the laws, and attentive to the wiſh of their ſuperiors. No inhabitant has been convicted of a crime before a Court of Juſtice, in the memory of man. And what ſhews the regularity of their conduct in the moſt conſpicuous light, is, that in July 1792, when the moſt atrocious riots prevailed in this county, on account of the inſtitution of turnpikes, not one inhabitant of this pariſh was carried before a magiſtrate, or even ſuſpected of being concerned in thoſe ſhameful enormities which diſgraced the county: though perhaps the burden, (if there be any,) falls heavieſt on them, being ſituated at the eaſtern extremity of the county, and though they, who pay toll, do not travel ten yards on the road, on their way to Berwick.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF TILLICOULTRY.

(COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN, PRESBYTERY OF DUMBLANE, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM OSBURN, *Miniſter.*

Etymology of the Name.

THE origin of the name is generally ſuppoſed to be Gaelic, and Tillicoultry compounded of the three words, *Tullich*, *cut* and *tir*. Theſe words ſignify literally, the *mount* or *hill at the back of the country*, and ſeem to refer to the Kirk-hill, and the Cuninghar; a riſing ground, which begins near the houſe of Tillicoultry and the old kirk, and runs in a S. E. direction till it reaches the Dovan. This riſing ground has a ſtrikingly romantic appearance, as one approaches it, either from the Eaſt or the Weſt. And as it interſects a beautiful plain, which begins at the Abbey-Craig near Stirling, and extends to Vicar's Bridge, it has juſtly been diſtinguiſhed as the termination of the plain, or ſtrath. But the author of this account hopes he will not be accuſed of affectation, if he ventures to give a Latin derivation, and conſiders Tillicoultry as compounded either of *Tellus culta*, or *Tellus cultorum Dei*.

Dei. If the firſt be adopted, we may ſuppoſe the name took its riſe, from the place having been once in a high ſtate of cultivation, probably from the introduction of the Italian agriculture. But if the ſecond, it may denote the reſidence of ſome of the *Culdees*, or a place appropriated to the worſhip of God, either by the Culdees or the Druids. For on the ſouth end of the Cuninghar, the rude remains of a Druidical circle are ſtill to be ſeen, and on the north-eaſt extremity of the riſing ground, the old church was ſituated. The writer hereof is no admirer of the Gaelic; but as Gaelic derivations are at preſent faſhionable, and as every place in this country is ſuppoſed, by our learned antiquarians, to have an old Gaelic name, he is afraid little attention will be paid to theſe *Latin* etymologies. It muſt, however, be allowed, that Tillicoultry is no great corruption of *Tellus culta*, or of *Tellus cultorum Dei.*

Situation.—Tillicoultry is an inland country pariſh, and preſents little uncommon or ſplendid for deſcription. It comprehends a conſiderable part of the Ochils, where theſe hills are higheſt; but the principal part of the pariſh lies at the foot of the hills, verging towards the ſouth. The river Dovan waſhes its banks on the north.

Appearance, Form, &c.—The appearance of the pariſh, whether we view the hills or the plain, is beautiful and pleaſant. A great part of the low ground is encloſed, and affords a variety of agreeable landſcapes, and the beauty of the ſcene is much encreaſed by the windings of the Dovan, which in miniature reſemble thoſe of the Forth. The ſhape of the whole pariſh is a rhomboid or an oblong, which has the two longeſt ſides on the E. and W. each meaſuring almoſt 6 Engliſh miles. The S. ſide of the oblong meaſures near

near $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the N. ſide one mile. The low grounds taken alone form alſo an oblong, the length of the ſides from E. to W. being rather more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and the breadth from S. to N. about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Extent and Elevation.—Tillicoultry conſiſts of more than 6000 Scotch acres, of which quantity, 4000 are in the Ochils, and the remaining 2000 acres form the low arable ground at the foot of the hills, and to the ſouth of the bank dykes. About 1100 or 1200 acres of arable land, by far the beſt and moſt valuable in the pariſh, lie between the bank dykes, at the foot of the hills, and the loweſt part of the banks of Balharty and Coalſnaughton, ſouth of the Dovan, and about 800 or 900 acres lie ſouth of the river, from the foot of the banks. The hills, according to an actual ſurvey, excluſive of the Mill-Glen farm, contain 2902 acres. The elevation of the ground, on the north banks of the Dovan; at the bridge, is not more than 20 feet, or at moſt 30 feet above the level of the Forth, at ſpring tides; and the S. W. corner of Tillicoultry, which approaches neareſt to that river, is diſtant from it about 3 miles. The ground at Coalſnaughton is near 300 feet above the Dovan; and at Balharty it is about 300 feet.

Soil and Surface.—The ſoil is in general *dry-field*, rich in quality. When properly taken care of, it bears excellent crops, both of corn and hay, and gratefully repays the labour of the husbandman. At the foot of the hills, the ſoil is a fine quick loam, but not very deep. The crofts are, in many places, covered with ſtones almoſt innumerable, ſmooth in their ſurface, and in general twice as large as a man's fiſt. They appear to be natural to the ſoil, and not brought thither by any inundation; but many entertain a different opinion

nion. Some farmers think them an advantage to the crops, as in hot dry ſummers they keep the ground moiſt and cool, and in winter warm. Vaſt quantities have been gathered, which, in labouring, proves a great eaſe both to the plough and the ploughman. The haughs, near the Dovan, preſent a deep loam mixed with ſand, and the ſoil is very different from that of the crofts. The farm of Gutters is in part clay, and bears fine crops of wheat as well as other grains. The lands ſouth of the Dovan are much inferior to thoſe on the north ſide. In ſome places, the ſoil is a clay, of a cold nature; in others it is a light loam, mixed with ſand and gravel, on a till bottom, and in others it is a deep rich loam. A conſiderable part of the ground is covered with heath, and would not be eaſily improved, either for tillage or paſture. Perhaps the beſt improvement would be, to encloſe the moors, and to plant them with Scotch firs, larches, and other foreſt trees.

Agriculture.—In the county of Clackmanan, agricultural improvements are much attended to, and have been brought to great perfection. Richer crops of wheat, barley, or hay, are ſeldom to be met with; and the ploughs uſed, and the mode of ploughing, are no where ſurpaſſed. A plough and ploughman were ſent this ſummer from Clackmannanſhire to Windſor, to give a proper ſpecimen of plowing on his Majeſty's farm.

Crops and Multures, &c.—The farmers in Tillicoultry do not pretend to take any lead in agricultural improvement. They profit, however, by the obſervations and the practice of others. Two horſe ploughs are getting into general uſe, which are a great improvement in husbandry. The crops principally

principally attended to, are oats and barley. Wheat is too much neglected, except by Mr Johnſton, and even peaſe and beans. Crops of turnips are ſeldom to be met with, and cabbages are never raiſed in our fields. It is difficult to aſcertain the rent and produce of the land *per* acre. The farms are commonly let at a certain rent *in cumulo*, and the farmers, not knowing the meaſure of their fields, ſeldom pay attention to the produce of particular acres. The reſult of many enquiries is, that an acre of the beſt land, well manured, will produce from 7 to 10 bolls of oats, each boll weighing 14 or 15 ſtone, yielding about a boll of meal. The oats generally produce 14 pecks of meal, beſides paying the multure, and all other mill-dues. The multure is no leſs than the 13th peck. An acre of the ſame land will yield from 7 to 11 bolls of barley, each weighing about 18 or 20 ſtone. At an average, however, an acre will not yield above 6 or 7 bolls, whether of barley or oats. Our dry-field barley is remarkably good, being very thin in the rind; and is reckoned, by maltmen and diſtillers, equal to any raiſed in the Carſe. A good deal of wheat has of late been ſown in the farm of Gutters, and an acre commonly produces from 8 to 10 bolls. Forty bolls of potatoes have been raiſed on an acre, and one farmer in particular had 18 bolls on the 4th of an acre. The writer of this account had acceſs to ſee a remarkable crop of potatoes, raiſed in Mr Barclay's garden, the produce being no leſs than 105 pecks, or 6 bolls and 9 pecks, raiſed from one peck planted.

Farms, Rents, Paſture, Stock, &c.—The farms are in general ſmall, and there are only 5 tenants whoſe rent exceeds 50 l. Sterling *per annum*. A great part of the pariſh is incloſed, and laid down in graſs, and is let annually for ſummer graz-

zing. The rent of farms fluctuates, but graſs parks commonly let well.* The groſs rental of the pariſh is above 1700l. Sterling, and the valuation is rated, in the old ceſs books of the county, at 3389 l. 5 s. 10d. Scotch. There are in Tillicoultry employed in plowing, carting, and other country work:

Horſes,	-	116	Milk Cows,	-	132
Ploughs	-	36	Cottagers ditto	-	63
Carts	-	89			

Hill Farms, Sheep and Wool.—The hills have a verdant and beautiful appearance. They afford excellent paſture for ſheep, and are divided into 5 farms. They will maintain about 3500 ſheep; and, at an average, an acre will not only maintain, but fodder one ſheep. The paſture is graſs, interſperſed with heath, bent and ling. The heath is ſhort and wearing out. The Mill-Glen and Fore-hill farms are inferior

* For 15 years paſt, almoſt all the farms, which have been let, have been taken by ſtrangers from other pariſhes in the neighbourhood, and who are Seceders. If the preſent ſyſtem prevail for other 15 years, the greateſt part, if not the whole of the pariſh, will be poſſeſſed by perſons not belonging to the eſtabliſhed church. It is but doing juſtice to a worthy man, (whoſe ſweetneſs of temper, benevolence of heart, and gentlemany behaviour, will be remembered with pleaſure, at leaſt while the preſent generation laſts,) to mention, that Mr BARCLAY MAITLAND improved and beautified the pariſh in a high degree, by his numerous incloſures and plantations. His taſte and attention every where appear. Mr TAIT alſo merits praiſe for his improvements on the lands of Harvieſton, which he has wholly encloſed. He has carried on his improvements, for many years, with much ſpirit and judgment, and, it is preſumed, with great advantage to himſelf. His uniform practice has been to fallow his fields, and, after manuring them well with dung and lime, to ſow them with barley and graſs ſeeds. One of his incloſures, which contains 5 and a half Scotch acres, has been let this ſeaſon for grazing, at 4 guineas per acre, the rent being 23 l. 2 s. Sterling.

rior to none in the Ochils, for producing excellent mutton and fine wool. The wood of theſe farms is much ſuperior to that of Bruich and the back hills, as the paſture is naturally much finer. The farms are commonly ſupplied from Tweeddale with young ſheep of the black-faced kind: the farmers ſometimes breed young ſheep, which, on the whole, they find better, ſtronger and more profitable, than thoſe from Tweeddale. But as the hills are ſtormy, they cannot keep the lambs in winter. All the Mill Glen farm is good paſture, but in the reſt of the hills, there are near 400 acres of little or no value, as they are covered with channel and moſs. The very beſt white fleeces yield about 4 lib. of wool, valued at 10d. *per* pound; and the beſt ſmeared fleeces 6 lib. at 5d. or 6d. The average weight of a white fleece is about 2½ lib. and of a ſmeared one, 4 lib. The whole of what was formerly a common‡ is now the property of Mr BRUCE, except *Bruich*, which belongs to Mr TAIT, and as much as will maintain 48 ſheep.

Hills and Minerals.—BENCLEUGH, the property of Mr Johnſton, is the higheſt in the Ochils, and is 2300 feet above the level of the Forth at Alloa. The Ochils preſent a conſiderable variety of ſtrata. The ſummits of the central parts, particularly Bencleugh, are compoſed of granites, both red and gray. Many varieties of theſe are extremely beau-

‡ When LORD COLVIL feued the eſtate, he gave his vaſſals a right of paſturing ſheep and other cattle on the hills. Some of them had a limited number of ſheep aſſigned them, and others an unlimited nnmber. In the year 1769, Mr BARCLAY MAITLAND commenced a proceſs againſt the feuers, for a diviſion of the common hill, which contained about 300 acres. The proceſs was withdrawn from the Court of Seſſion in 1774, and referred to arbiters, and all the feuers diſpoſed of their property for low ground, or a diminution of their feu-duty. The *Mill-Glen* was no part of the common hill.

tiful, and contain large diſtinct chryſtals of black *Schort*. The next chain, of which the *King's Seat* is the higheſt, and belongs to that claſs called ſecondary mountains, conſiſts of ſtrata of *Argillaceous Schiſtus*. Below this, in various parts, are found craigs or rocks of *Baſaltes*, or whinſtone. The Caſtle Craig is of this ſort, and is peculiarly intereſting to the naturaliſt, as it is in part compoſed of nodules of whin-ſtone, exhibiting concentric cruſts of decompoſed baſaltes, like the coats of an onion, ſurrounding a harder nucleus. Garnets are not uncommon in the micaceous Schiſtus, which forms the ſhade between the granitical and argillaceous Schiſtus. There are many veins of copper in the hills. * Iron-ſtone, of an exceeding good quality, has been found in many different places. Some veins in *Watty-Glen* are as rich as any diſcovered in Scotland. The Dovan Company have a leaſe of the iron-ſtone belonging to Mr Bruce, and have employed, during the greateſt part of this year, 64 miners and 10 women bearers. At an average, each miner gains 1 s. 6d. *per* day, and a bearer 8d. A great many *ſtrings*, or veins of rich iron ore of the kidney kind, have been diſcovered in the hills, equal in quality to any diſcovered in this country, and by no means inferior to what is brought from England. Some ſmall trials have been made with one of the veins, and it is to be regretetd that they are diſcontinued. Beſides copper, there is a great appearance, in the hills, of different

* Some of theſe were wrought near 50 years ago, to a very conſiderable extent in the Mill-Glen. Four different kinds of copper ore were diſcovered, the thickeſt vein of which was about 18 inches. The ore, when waſhed and dreſſed, was valued at 50 l. Sterling *per ton*. A Company of gentlemen at London were the tackſmen, and for ſeveral years employed about 50 men. After a very great ſum of money was expended, the works were abandoned, as unable to defray the expence.

ferent minerals, such as silver, lead, cobalt, antimony, sulphur, and arsenic, but no proper trials have yet been made. A small edge stratum of dark blue clay, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick, was lately found, which, it is thought, will prove exceeding good for building furnaces, and making fire bricks. There is plenty of free-stone of a good quality for building; and stones have been cut in the quarries from 8 to 10 feet in length.

Coal.—The whole parish, south of the hills, abounds with coal, which is the property of Mr Bruce, except in Mr Johnston's estate. The coal has not been wrought to any great extent, unless where it is drained by the present level. There are 4 different seems of coal which the level drains. The first is a mixed cherry coal, 3 feet thick, and 12 fathoms from the surface. The 2d is a rough soft coal of an excellent quality, 6 feet thick, and 15 fathoms deep. The 3d is a remarkably good clean splint, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick, and 20 fathoms deep. And the 4th, which is reckoned the principal seam, is about 5 feet thick, and lies at the depth of 30 fathoms. It is a hard durable splint well adapted for exportation and the foreign market, particularly Holland. Only the 2d and fourth seams have been wrought; † the roofs are all good, except that on the 2d seam, where it runs towards the crop. But it is very valuable, as it contains balls of iron-stone in the roof, of an exceeding good quality. Eighty acres of the 2d seam, and 20 of the fourth, may still be wrought by the level; but by erecting a steam engine, an immense quantity may be gained. The Devon company have been tacksmen

† Twenty pickmen used to be employed in the coal-work; and about 3000 chalders of great coal were exported annually from the harbour of Alloa; but for 4 years past, the working of the coal has been discontinued. There is no doubt, however, but that, in process of time, the coal will be a most profitable concern, as there are inexhaustible fields of it to be found.

tackſmen of the coal for more t' ' a year and a half, but have wrought none, except a very ſmall quantity for land ſale. The deſign of taking a coal, without working it, is *incomprehenſible*. While coals remain under ground, they are of no value, either to the proprietor or the tackſmen.

Gate Mail.—The great coal, when led to the ſhore of Alloa for exportation, pays a tax of fourpence Sterling per chalder to the family of Mar, called *Gate Mail.* It was originally demanded, for the liberty of exporting the coal from the *Pow of Alloa*, and becauſe the road leading through the eſtate to the harbour was a private one, though uſed by the public. This road is repaired by Mr Erſkine at a conſiderable annual expence; at the ſame time it ſeems extraordinary, that there is not a public road leading from Tillicoultry to a public harbour, and to a market town, in which a cuſtom-houſe is eſtabliſhed by authority.

River, Floods, Fiſh, Pearls, Swans, &c.—The Devon is a beautiful river, but not navigable. After running in the Ochils about 8 miles in an eaſterly direction from its ſource, it makes a wide circuit round Muckart. Then taking a weſterly courſe at the Crook, and forming the romantic fall at the Caldron Lin, it divides the arable land of Tillicoultry, into two almoſt equal parts. The valley, through which it paſſes, is diſtinguiſhed by *Newte* in his Tour, as being one of the moſt pleaſant places, or, as he expreſſes it, the *Tempe* of Scotland. The Devon frequently ſwells with rain, and overflows its banks ‡. It abounds with excellent trout and

‡ A very remarkable and uncommon flood happened in September 1785, which carried away a prodigious quantity of corn, broke down a ſtone bridge at the Rack mill in Dollar, and occaſioned other very extraordinary damage. The

and parr, which afford much amuſement to the angler. In the deep pools, pikes and eels are found. Salmon come from the Forth in great numbers to ſpawn; and we have plenty of delicious ſea trouts, both white and grey, in the harveſt and ſpring. In ſome places, the banks of the Devon preſent ſingular concretions of hardened clay, in a great variety of fantaſtic ſhapes. Pearls of a ſmall ſize have been found in the bed of the river; and, in very ſevere winters, ſwans have been known to reſort to its banks.

Rivulets and Burn Trouts, &c.—The hill burns, or rivulets, abound with trouts of a very delicious quality and flavour, and are taken in great numbers after rain. None were ever diſcovered in the *Glooming-ſide Burn*, though it has plenty of water, and remarkably fine ſtreams and pools. Trouts have even been put into it, but without the deſired effect. This is ſuppoſed to ariſe from ſome bed of ſulphur, or other mineral hurtful to fiſh, over which the burn paſſes.

Birds and Quadrupeds.—The birds are the ſame as in the neighbourhood, and it is needleſs to ſpecifiy them, as they are enumerated in the ſtatiſtical account of Alloa §. Till of late, the bulfinch was a ſtranger here, but he is now frequently to be met with. The woodlark ought to be particularly mentioned, as one of our ſweeteſt warblers. He begins to ſing early in the ſpring, and continues till late in harveſt. Like the nightingale, he is frequently heard ſinging in thr

The river roſe in 4 or 5 hours more than 13 feet above its uſual height, at Tillicoultry bridge. A woman, who was aſſiſting a farmer in removing his corns, on the ſouth ſide, was forced away by the rapidity and violence of the ſtream, and brought in ſafety to the oppoſite bank. Her clothes had made her float on the ſurface of the water, though ſhe was carried down about a quarter of a mile.

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the moſt melodious, enchanting manner, in the clear, ſtill ſummer evenings. On theſe occaſions, he commonly prolongs his ſong till midnight, and ſometimes till the morning. For two or three years we were viſited with a *magpie*, which was not variegated with black and white plumage, but was *entirely white*,—"*Rara avis in terris*". The other magpies aſſociated with him, and did not conſider him in any degree as ſtrange. In the hills there are muir-fowls, plovers and dotterels. The muir-fowls are not ſo frequent as formerly, as the heath is wearing out, and in conſequence of this the ſhelter is not ſo good. The birds of paſſage are ſwallows, cuckoos, fieldfares and woodcocks; and we are alſo viſited at times with herons, ducks, and ſea gulls. Eagles are ſometimes ſeen on the hills. The wild quadrupeds are, hares, rabbits, foxes, hedge-hogs, weaſels, polecats, badgers and otters. The ſkin of the otter is valuable as a fur, and fetches a good price.

Orchards and Plantations.—There are two ſmall orchards, planted chiefly with apple trees, which contain about ſix acres, and, ſome years, bear conſiderable quantities of fruit. Above 100 acres are planted with foreſt trees, and many of the incloſures are ſurrounded with ſingle rows of planting. All kinds of foreſt trees thrive well, particularly oaks, elms, aſhes, beeches, planes, and Scotch firs *.

Climate.—The air is healthy, dry, and warm, ſubject neither to fogs nor damps. Snow does not lie long on the low ground, particularly between the Devon and the hills, which is probably owing to the natural warmth of the air or ſoil. The healthineſs of the two villages, at the foot of the hills, is undoubtedly

* About 60 years ago, the common broom grew ſo tall and luxuriant near the manſe, that the crows and magpies built their neſts in the branches.

doubtedly much encreaſe, by their being well ſupplied with plenty of excellent water.

Diſeaſes.—There are no diſeaſes any way peculiar to Tillicoultry, § or that can be ſaid to be prevalent. Epidemic diſeaſes, ſuch as fevers, fluxes, the ſmall-pox, the meaſles, and the chincough attack us at times, but not more frequently than they do others. Rheumatiſms are not uncommon, as the people are much expoſed to rain and cold, in following their employments in the fields. ¶ Within theſe 25 years, a great many young perſons have died of conſumptions, but the author is not able, either to aſcertain the number, or point out the cauſes. Slow fevers ſome times are prevalent. And people have been known to recover, after remaining in them 30, or even 40 days. The ague uſed to be frequent, but it is now almoſt unknown. This happy change is perhaps owing to the lands being better drained than formerly, or to the houſes being kept more cleanly,

§ The laſt time the plague was in Scotland, it did not reach Tillicoultry, though a good many perſons died of it at Alva. One man however having died ſuddenly in the Weſter town, the people were afraid to touch the corpſe, or even to enter the houſe. It was pulled down, and the ſmall eminence, which this occaſioned, was called Botchy Cairn.

¶ It is worth mentioning that one William Hunter, a collier, was cured in the year 1758, of an inveterate rheumatiſm or gout, by drinking freely of new ale, full of barm or yeſt. The poor man had been confined to his bed for a year and a half, having almoſt entirely loſt the uſe of his limbs. On the evening of *Handſel Monday*, as it is called, (*i e.* the firſt Monday of the New Year, O. S.) ſome of his neighbours came to make merry with him. Though he could not riſe, yet he always took his ſhare of the ale, as it paſſed round the company, and, in the end, became much intoxicated. The conſequence was, that he had the uſe of his limbs the next morning, and was able to walk about. He lived more than 20 years after this, and never had the ſmalleſt return of his old complaint.

warm, and dry. The dysentery was unknown here for many years. It has, however, appeared of late three different times, and carried off a good many persons, chiefly women. As this alarming malady always broke out in the end of harvest, some have been apt to imagine, that, if it was not caught by infection, it arose from the colds and damps to which the people were exposed in reaping, or to a frequent use of potatoes not brought to a proper state of maturity. The people have in general an aversion to inoculation for the small-pox, yet this prejudice is beginning to wear away ‡.

Population.—Tillicoultry is a small parish, yet pretty populous for its size.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF TILLICOULTRY.

For these 18 years past, the annual average number of souls has been	874
The highest real number of any year during that period, was	919
And the lowest, - - - -	829
Difference, - - -	90
In the year 1789, the number of souls was -	903
Of these there belonged to the Established Church,	742
And to the Secession, - -	161

The following *Lists* were taken in January 1792, and shew the *Numbers*, *Ages*, *Conditions*, and *Employments* of the inhabitants at that time.

NUMBERS

‡ Many children took the small pox, last year, in the natural way, only one of whom died, being a sickly child. Were the small-pox to be always equally favourable, inoculation would fall into disuse. The author has sometimes remarked, that when the same diseases, such as dysenteries, fevers, and the small-pox, have prevailed in Alva and Tillicoultry, more in proportion have died in Alva than here. This was probably occasioned by the houses being more crouded together in the one place than the other, and the air being more confined, and the infection more liable to spread.

NUMBERS, SEXES, and AGES,

Total number of ſouls,	853
—— Families, -	212
Males, -	373
Females, -	480
——	
Majority of females,	107
No of perſons under 10 years of age, - -	238
—— Between 10 and 20,	163
—— 20 and 50,	301
—— 50 and 70,	124
—— 70 and 85,	27

CONDITIONS, COUNTRY, RELIGION, &c.

No. of married perſons,	278
—— Widowers, -	9
—— Widows, -	54
—— Bachelors who keep houſe,	11
—— Perſons reſiding but not born in Tillicoultry,	200
—— Born abroad,	5
—— Heritors,	10
—— Clergymen,	1
—— School-maſters,	1
—— Communicants of the Eſtabliſhment, -	359
—— Ditto of the Seceſſion,	97
—— Epiſcopalians,	2
—— Cameronians,	1

OCCUPATIONS.

No. of Farmers, -	34
—— Weavers, -	21
—— Wrights, -	6
—— Maſons, -	7
—— Smiths, -	3
No. of Shoe-makers,	3
—— Tailors, -	8
—— Miners, -	4
—— Labourers, -	51
—— Gardeners, -	1
—— Millers, -	1
—— Dancing maſters, -	1
—— Male houſe ſervants,	1
—— Female ditto, -	12
—— Male labbouring ſervants,	25
—— Female ditto, -	12

ANNUAL AVERAGES, for 21 years.

No. of Marriages ¶, -	7
—— Baptiſms for ditto,	30
—— Burials for ditto ¶,	18
—— Males born for ditto,	15 $\frac{1}{3}$
—— Females born for ditto,	14
—— Perſons in each family,	4
—— Ditto in each farmer's family, -	5

PROPORTIONS.

Ofmales to females, nearly *as* 3 *to* 4		
Of married men and widowers, to Bachelors who keep houſes, about	13	1
Of widowers to widows,	1	6
Of males born to females,	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	19
Or about,	13	12
Total number of males born during the laſt 21 years,		329
Ditto of females within that period, -		304
Majority of males born,		25
Annnal average of more males than females, 1 *to* 1 *and* a fifth		

INCREASE

¶ For 12 months preceding November 1789, there were only two grown up perſons buried in the church yards of Tillicoultry; and for 12 months preceding June of the preſent year 1793, there have been neither marriages nor proclamations.

			Increase.		
No. of ſouls in 1755,	-	787			
—— Ditto in 1782, (as above,)		853	Increaſe,	-	96
—— Ditto in 1793	-	909	Ditto	-	56
					152

Total increaſe in 38 years,

Cauſes of the Increaſe.—By comparing Dr Webſter's liſt with the number of inhabitants during the two laſt years, there is an evident increaſe. It is perhaps owing to the eſtabliſhment of the Devon company in the neighbourhood of, and the working of iron-ſtone in Tillicoultry, that the number of the inhabitants has ſo greatly encreaſed ſince the beginning of the year 1792. It is ſomewhat remarkable, that when the liſts were taken in January 1792, all the maſons, miners, and labourers were employed, but there were ſcarcely any of the labourers employed in the pariſh.

Prolific Mothers.—There are at preſent living in Tillicoultry eleven married women, who have been delivered of twin children. One of them has had twins two different times, and another, in the year 1765, about three years before the birth of her twins, brought forth THREE children at one birth, all boys and of a good ſize. Two of the children died in the firſt month, and the third, a healthy child, died of the ſmall pox when two years old. But what is ſtill more uncommon, in the year 1752, Katherine Hunter, the wife of George Sharp a labourer, brought forth FOUR CHILDREN at one birth,—two males and two females. They were all baptized, but being ſmall and weakly, none of them lived above three weeks.

Villages and Houſes.—Tillicoultry contains three villages, *Weſtertown*, *Earlſtown* and *Coalſnaughton*, and all the inhabitants

tants live in theſe except 36 families. Of theſe families only three reſide in the Ochils. The houſes conſiſt of nothing but the ground floor, except 8, of which, 5 houſes have only one ſtory raiſed above the ground floor, two have 2 ſtories, and one has three ſtories, and there are only three houſes, the manſe included, which are ſubject to the duty on window lights.

Manufactures.—Tillicoultry has been long famous for weaving a courſe woolen cloth, called *Tillicoultry Serge.* It is a ſpecies of ſhaloon, having *worſted* warp and *yarn* waft, and is reported to have been wrought here, as early as the reign of MARY Queen of Scots. The average price is 1s. Sterling per yard. Though the manufacture has now, in a great meaſure, left us, and gone to Alva, (*like the arts and ſciences, from Eaſt to Weſt,*) yet all the cloth of this kind is ſold in the markets, under the name of *Tillicoutry Serge.* It is much to be regretted, that more attention is not paid to this manufacture in the place where is was invented, or at leaſt brought to the greateſt perfection. About 50 years ago, a ſerge web from Alva would not ſell in the market, while one from Tillicoultry remained unſold. But this is by no means the caſe at preſent. The author of this account can give no preciſe ſtatement of the quantity of ſerge wrought here, as the ſtamp maſter keeps no liſt. He ſuppoſes, however, that he ſtamps annually 7000 ells of ſerge, and an equal quantity of plaiding. Some of the weavers are now employed in making muſlins, but as this branch is ſtill in its infancy, it is impoſſible to ſay with what advantage it may be attended.

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—The prices of labour, and of many of the neceſſaries of life, have riſen much, and

are

are ſtill riſing. It may be ſaid to be nearly double of what it was 50 years ago. For example, the wages of a taylor per day, beſides his diet, was 4d. Sterling, now they are 8d; of a day labourer, 5d. or 6d. now 10d. or 1s; of a maſon, 1s. now 1s. 6d. and 1s. 8d. or 2s; of a labouring ſervant per annum, 3l. now from 6l. to 10l. The price of a fowl was 5d. now it is 1s. and ſometimes more; of a pound of butter, 5d., now 9d. or 10d. and of a pound of cheeſe, 2d. now 4d.

Roads.—The roads along the hill foot have a gravel bottom, and are tolerably good, and likewiſe the road which leads from the hill foot to Coalſnaughton by the bridge. But the ſouth road, which comprehends a ſpace of more than 2 Engliſh miles, is in a wretched ſtate, having been much neglected of late years, and the greateſt part of it never having been properly made, at leaſt to the eaſtward Coalſnaughton.

Church.—The patron and ſuperior of Tillicoultry, is JAMES BRUCE, Eſq; at preſent a minor, and an enſign in the army. He is alſo titular of the teinds, and all the heritors and feuers hold of him. * The preſent miniſter † is a bachelor ‡. The manſe

* His immediate anceſtors were the late proprietors of Kinroſs. He is a deſcendent of the celebrated Architect, Sir WILLIAM BRUCE. It is ſuppoſed by PINKERTON, with a great degree of probability, in his collection of ancient Scottiſh poems, that Sir JOHN BRUCE of Kinroſs was the author of the well-known, and much eſteemed poem, HARDYKNUTE, which has been commonly aſcribed to Mrs WARDLAW. It is probable, alſo, that Sir John was the author of the VISION, and ſome other excellent Scottiſh poems.

† The names of his predeceſſors in office, as far as they are known, and the dates of their ordinations, are ſubjoined.

MINISTERS

‡ It may be accounted a ſingular fact, that none of the miniſters of Tillicoultry have been married, ſince the Revolution 1688, except Mr Tayler.

manſe was built in 1766, and is the ſecond in the ſame place, ſince the year 1730. The new church is ſituated near the manſe, almoſt equi-diſtant from the 3 villages, and was built in 1773. It is a ſmall neat building, well lighted, but not very commodiouſly ſeated. There are two church-yards, one where the old church was ſituated, ‖ and the other at the new church. The old manſe has long been converted into a

MINISTERS *of Tillicoultry for the laſt* 146 *years.*

	Date of admiſſion.		*Time of Incumbency.*		
	Months.	*Years.*	*Years.*	*Months.*	*Days.*
Mr Andrew Rhynd, (the preciſe date of his admiſſion, uncertain), -		1648	about 21	0	0
Mr John Foreſt, ordained -	30 Oct.	1669	6	4	0
Mr Robert Keith, -	27 Feb.	1676	16	1	15
Mr Robert Gourlay. -	13 Apr.	1692	22	2	22
Mr John Taylor, -	7 July	1714	13	6	15
Mr Robert Duncan ¶, -	25 Jan.	1728	2	4	0
Mr Alexander Steedman, -	27 May	1731	34	4	0
Mr James Gourlay, -	25 Sep.	1765	8	5	0
Mr William Oſborn, -	24 Feb.	1774	20	0	8
			145	4	0

¶ *Mr* DUNCAN's *Lectures on the Epiſtle to the Hebrews were publiſhed after his death, and are much eſteemed for their piety, orthodoxy, and learning.*

‖ The old church and manſe were ſituated near the houſe of Tillicoultry. The church belonged to the Abbey of Cambuſkenneth, having been granted to it by King MALCOLM, together with the tythes and pertinents. But after the Reformation, the family of MARR became heritable proprietors of the church, parſonage, vicarage, and 10 acres of gebe. And as the abbot and convent of Cambuſkenneth had ſet the teinds in tack to the COLVILLS of Culroſs, the proprietors of Tillicoultry, JOHN Earl of MARR, May 30th 1628, ratified the tacks, and alſo the feu charters, and infeftment of the glebe; and granted procuratory for reſigning the ſame into the hands of his Majeſty, in favour of JAMES Lord COLVIL, and his ſon.

a ſtable, and the old glebe is an orchard. The ſtipend conſiſts of 120l. Scotch, including communion-element money, 34 bolls of oats, 24 bolls of barley, and 6 bolls of meal. It commenced in the year 1648, and ſince that time there has been no augmentation. The miniſter has the privilege of getting his coals for paying the collier the price of working, and he has alſo property in the hills, for maintaining 7 or 8 ſheep. The glebe was exchanged in the year 1730, when the manſe was removed to its preſent ſituation. It lies in 4 different pieces, and ought to conſiſt of 13 acres.

School.—There is a parochial ſchoolmaſter, whoſe ſalary is 100l. Scotch. He has alſo a dwelling houſe and garden. His annual income, including ſalary, and all emoluments, both as ſchool-maſter and ſeſſion clerk, is extremely ſmall, and ſeldom exceeds 20l. Sterling. The ſchool is kept in the Weſtertown, which is by no means centrical or convenient for the reſt of the pariſh. The ſchool wages are low, and Engliſh, writing, and arithmetick are taught for 2s. per quarter, Engliſh alone being only 1s. 3d.

Poor.—The poor are maintained without any aſſeſſment, and there are no beggars. The capital of the poor's money is 212l. Sterling, and the annual average collection at the church door, has been about 12 guineas, for 18 years paſt. The intereſt of the capital, together with the collections, and the profits ariſing from the mortcloths, proclamations of marriages, and incidental fines, conſtitute the funds by which the poor are maintained. The number of perſons at preſent ſtatedly ſupplied from the public charity is 7. But, beſides theſe, the kirk ſeſſion occaſionally aſſiſts a great many more,‡ by

‡ It is ſaid that about 40 or 50 years ago, people were very ſhy in receiving money from the poor's funds. but this delicacy ſeems now to have entirely vaniſhed.

by giving them money, buying cloths, paying their houſe rents and ſchool fees for their children. Till within theſe 4 years, intereſt at 5 *per cent.* has been received for the poor's money, but the rate at preſent is only 4 *per cent.* The annual average of the mortcloth money is 2l. 4 s. Sterling; of the proclamations, 14s. 10d; of incidental fines, 13s. 6d; of perſons occaſionally aſſiſted, 11s; and of children whoſe ſchool wages are paid, 5 s or 6s. The loweſt ſtated weekly allowance is 6d, and the higheſt is from 1 s. to 15d.

Proprietors.—Beſides Mr Bruce, there are other 9 heritors, namely, Lord Cathcart, John Johnſton, Eſq; of Alva, John Tait, Eſq; of Harvieſton, John Harrower, John Paton, Hugh Hamilton, Marion Dryſdale, James Ure, and Robert May. All the heritors have houſes in Tillicoultry, and reſide in them, except Lord Cathcart and Mr Johnſton, who have ſplendid ſeats in the neighbourhood.

State of Property.—The eſtate of Tillicoultry has been in the poſſeſſion of 7 different families ſince the commencement of the laſt century, and has been 6 times ſold §. The advance of the price, at the two laſt ſales, deſerves to be noticed; the

§ It came into the poſſeſſion of the anceſtors of Lord Colvil of Culross, in the reign of James III. *anno* 1483, and continued in that family till the year 1634, when it was ſold to William Alexander of Menſtry, a Poet of great genius, and afterwards created Earl of Stirling. Several of his poems are printed in Drummond of Hawthornden's Collection, and his *Paræneſis*, or exhortation on government, which is dedicated to Prince Henry, the ſon of King James VI. does great honour, both to the prince and the peer. The eſtate was next purchaſed by Sir Alexander Rollo of Duncrub, in the year 1644; by Mr John Nicolson of Carnock in Stirling-ſhire, in 1659; by Lord Tillicoultry, one of the ſenators of the College of Juſtice, and a Baronet, in 1701; by the Hon. Charles Barclay Maitland, of the family of Lauderdale, in 1756; and by James Bruce, Eſq; of Kinroſs, in 1780.

price paid by Lord TILLICOULTRY being 3,494 l. Sterling; by Mr BARCLAY MAITLAND 15,000 l. and by Mr BRUCE 24,000. Before the last sale, a part of the estate was sold to Mr JOHNSTON of Alva; but the feus, † which Mr Barclay purchased at different times, were fully equivalent to this part. This estate, which, for a century and a half, has been always floating in the market, and has so frequently changed its proprietors, is now strictly entailed, and will remain in Mr Bruce's family, the entail of the estate of Kinross having been transferred by act of Parliament to Tillicoultry. The number of the old feus, or parts, was 40, but they are now mostly bought up, and again united with the estate, or in the possession of Mr TAIT. The lands of Killtown, where Tillicoultry house is situated, and the lands of *Colerstown* or *Collintown*, belonging to Mr JOHNSTON, were not fued. It is difficult to ascertain the quantity of land belonging to each of the feus, as more or less seems to have been given, according to the quality and value of the soil. One original 40th part at Drimmy contains at present, nearly as much arable land as a 40th part and a half at Ellertown, and near as much as two 40th parts at Cairnstown. ¶ Tillicoultry pays an annual feu-duty of 7 l. 6s. Sterling, and 166 bolls of salt, called *King's malt*. This is a part of the Lordship of Stirling, having been originally paid at the castle of Stirling, for the use of the King's family, but was transferred, at an early period, to the Earl of MARR, as a security for some money lent to the Crown.

Ancient

† Lord COLVIL feued the greatest part of his estate to his tenants, whom he distinguishes in his charters, as *auld*, *kindly*, *native tenants*, and reserved to himself a certain annual feu-duty, which appears to have been the old rent.

¶ It appears from the meal paid as feu-duty by the feuars of Cairnstown, and the money paid by the other feuars, that a boll of meal, and 3s. 4d. Sterling, were considered as being of equal value, in the conclusion of the 16th, and beginning of the 17th centuries.

Ancient Charter.—Between 500 and 600 years ago, Tillicoultry belonged to the family of MARR; and an original charter, granted by King ALEXANDER III. of Scotland, in the 14th year of his reign, is ſtill in the poſſeſſion of Mr ERSKINE of MARR, who has obligingly favoured the author with a copy. This charter is twice referred to by Biſhop KIETH, in his hiſtory of the Biſhops. It is elegantly written on parchment, with a very fair hand, and fine ink, and is in every reſpect a remarkable curioſity. The whole parchment is near a ſquare of 9½ inches, and the writing only meaſures 6 inches by 8 §.

§ As this charter is no leſs a curioſity than many of thoſe contained in ANDERSON's *Diplomata Scotiæ*, the ſubjoined copy will be an acceptable preſent to antiquarians: "ALEXANDER, Dei gratia, Rex Scotorum, omnibus probis hominibus totius terre ſue—Salutem. Sciant preſentes et futuri quod ALEUMUS de MESER, filius et heres quondam ALEUMI de MESER, totam terram ſuam de TULLICOULTRY, cum pertinentiis, in feodo de Clackmanan, quam de nobis tenuit hereditarie, per defectum ſeruitii de dicta terra nobis debiti, coram pluribus noſtri Regni magnatibus, ſcilicet, ALEXANDRO CUMYN, Comite de Bouchan, tunc Juſticiario Scotie, HUGONE de ABYRNITH, Magiſtro, W. WISCHARD tunc Cancellario, FERGUSIO CUMYN, WALTERO de ABERNYTH, WILLIELMO de LYSURSER, et NICHOLAO de RUTYRFORD, ac multis aliis, die Sancte Trinitatis, anno gratie milleſimo ducenteſimo ſexageſimo primo, apud Caſtrum Puellarum, per fuſtum et baculum nobis reddidiſſet, et totum jus ſuum quod habuit in dicta terra cum pertinentiis, vel habere potuit pro ſe et heredibus ſuis in perpetuum quietum clamaſſet, nos totam dictam terram de TULLICOULTRY, cum pertinentibus, WILLIELMO Comiti de MARR, dilecto noſtro et fideli pro homagio et ſervitio ſuo, dedimus conceſſimus, et hac preſenti carta noſtra confirmavimus, ſine aliquo retinemento, tenendam et habendam eidem WILLIELMO, et heredibus ſuis, de nobis et heredibus noſtris in feode et hereditate per eaſdem diviſas per quas WALTERUS, filius ALANI Seneſcalli, tunc Juſticiarius Scotie, et ROGERUS AUENEL, tunc vicecomes de STRIVELYN, predicto ALEUMO, patri dicti Aleumi, ex precepto inclito recordationis domini ALEXANDRI Regis, patris noſtri cariſſimi, aſſignauerunt et tradiderunt, cum incremento quod per eoſdem WALTERUM filium ALANI, et ROGERUM AUENEL factum fuit, MA-

THEO

Eminent men.—Lord COLVIL, who was raiſed to the peerage by James VI. in 1609, was a man of a military genius, and ſerved with much reputation, in the wars under HENRY the IV. of France. Returning to Scotland, loaded with honours, he reſided at Tillicoultry, and in his old age, reviſited the French court. As he appeared in the old faſhioned military dreſs, which he had formerly worn in the wars, the courtiers were all amazed when he entered the royal preſence. But no ſooner did HENRY obſerve the old warrior, than he claſped him in his arms, and embraced him with the greateſt affection, to the utter aſtoniſhment of all preſent. After his return, Lord COLVIL ſpent much of his time at Tillicoultry, and was particularly fond of walking on a beautiful terrace, at the north end of the Kirk-hill, and of repoſing himſelf under a thorn tree, the venerable trunk of which ſtill remains

THEO CLERICO de Tullicoultry, in nemore, in ſaltibus, in planis et aſperis, in terris et aquis, in pratis et paſcuis, in moris et mareſiis, in ſtagnis et malendinis, cum ſocco et ſacca, cum furca et foſſa, cum *Tol et Them et infandethef*, et cum omnibus aliis juſtis pertinentiis ſuis, et cum omnibus natiuis ejuſdem terre, qui die collationis facte predicto Aleumo patri dicti Aleumi, in dicta terra manentes fuerunt, libere, quiete, plenarie et honorifice, per ſeruitium unius militis, ſaluis noſtris eleemoſinis. Conceſſimus etiam eidem WILLIELMO, ut ipſe et heredes ſui, habeant et teneant dictam terram in liberum foreſtum. Quare firmiter prohibemus, ne quis ſine corum licentia in predicta terra ſecet, aut venetur ſuper noſtram plenariam forisfacturam decem librarum. Teſtibus, venerabili patre GAMELINO, epiſcopo Sancti Andree, ALEXANDRIO CUMYN, Comite de Bouchan Juſticiario Scotie, WALTERO Comite de MONTETH, JOHANNE CUMYN, WILLIELMO de BREECHYN, EUSTACHIO de Turribus, REGINALDO LE CHEN, apud Forfar, viceſſimo primo die Decembris, anno regni noſtri quarto decimo."

After the granting of this charter, Tillicoultry remained for a conſiderable period in the poſſeſſion of the family of MARR; but on account of a pretended ſucceſſion to Lady ISABELLA DOUGLAS, Counteſs of MARR, was ſeized by the Crown, notwithſtanding an expreſs declaration and promiſe, by ROBERT III. under the Great Seal, that he would accept of no lands belong to that lady.

mains. It unfortunately happened, that ſtanding one day on a ſtone, and looking up to the thorn tree, deſcribing his battles, he fell down the ſloping bank of the terrace, and, it is ſaid, was killed on the ſpot, in the year 1620. It may not be improper to add, under this article, that in the popiſh legends, Tillicoultry is mentioned as having been viſited by St. SERF or SERVANUS, and the ſcene of ſome of his pretended miracles. St. Serf lived in the end of the 6th century, and there is a particular account of him in *Winton's Chronicle* ‖, a manuſcript in the Cottonian library †. Notwithſtanding the very remote antiquity of St Serf, his memory is ſtill, in ſome degree, preſerved, though his name is almoſt entirely forgot; but he is repreſented, by tradition, as a holy man, who travelled about the country, with a *Scape Goat* ‡, which was unfortunately killed. There is a heap of ſtones, called *Cairn Cur* or *Gur*, which ſeems to have been intended to perpetuate the ſtory of the goat. The name has an evident affinity to the Latin word *Caper*, and to the Gaelic, *Gobhur*, which ſignifies a goat.

Antiquities.

‖ WINTON, the author of the chronicle, was canon regular of St Andrews, and prior of the monaſtery of Loch Leven, and lived in the end of the 14 century.

† An excerpt from this chronicle was lately publiſhed by PINKERTON, in the Appendix to his collection of Old Scottiſh poems. One of the miracles reported to have been performed by St Serf, was, the raiſing two young men to life, who appear to have been brothers. The account given of this in the chronicle, if not very elegant, has at leaſt the merit of being abundantly brief:

"In Tullycultry, til a wif
"Two ſonys he raiſit frae ded to lyf."

‡ In WINTON's chronicle, in place of a ſcape goat, mention is made of a *ram*. The killing of the ram occaſioned another miracle. The ſtory is abundantly ludicrous, and as ludicrouſly related by the poetical biographer:

This

Antiquities.—There are few curioſities, or remains of antiquity*. The rude Druidical circle, on the ſouth end of the Cuninghar, deſerves ſome ſmall notice. It is compoſed of granites about 5½ feet long, and its diameter is near 60 feet. The ſpot was covered by the late proprietor, with a circular thicket of Scotch firs, and is marked by Stobie, in his ſplendid map of Perth and Clackmannan ſhires. On the caſtle Craig, the foundations § of a round circular building are ſtill viſible.

Character,

This holy man had a ram,
That he had fed up of a lam:
And oyſit hym til folow ay,
Quherevir he paſſit in his way.
A theyf this ſcheppe in Ackien ſtal,
And et hym up in pecis ſmalle.
Quhen Sanct Serf his ram had myſt,
Quha that it ſtal was few that wiſt:
On preſumption nevirtheleſs,
He that it ſtal areſtyt was;
And til Sanct Serf ſyne was he broucht.
That ſcheipe he ſaid that he ſtal noucht;
And tharfor, for to ſwer an athe,
He ſaid that he walde nocht be laythe.
But ſone he worthit rede for ſchayme,
The ſcheype that bletyt in his wayme.
Swa was he taynetyt ſchamfully;
And at Sanct Serf aſkyt mercy.

* It is reported, there was a Roman ſtation on the north end of the Cuninghar. About 50 years ago, the place was dug by order of Sir Robert Stuart, and ſeveral urns, containing human bones, were found.

§ Between theſe and the hills, there has been a ditch by way of defence. The vulgar tradition is, that the *Peychts* had a ſtrong fortification in this place, and that the ſtones of the edifice were carried away, when the caſtle of Stirling was built. A large ſtone coffin, neatly cemented with whitiſh clay, was diſcovered about 8 years ago, in the midſt of a great cairn or heap of ſtones in Wertertown, anciently called Cairntown. It was filled with fine earth, and contained two ſmall bones.

Character, &c.—We have our good qualities as well as our bad. Publicly to expoſe the one might give offence, and could do no good. To praiſe the other might appear oſtentation and flattery. It is, however, but juſtice to mention, that the people are ſober and induſtrious, and attached to the King and Conſtitution, and to the Preſbyterian form of worſhip and Church Government. The men moſtly betake themſelves to country work, or to employments connected with huſbandry. Few of them enliſt in the army, and not many of them engage in the ſeafaring line. The women are thrifty and laborious, attentive to their families, and are much employed in ſpinning worſted and woolen yarn; particularly the latter. All ranks dreſs better and finer than they formerly did. And as an inſtance of refinement in the furniture of the houſes, it may be mentioned, that in the year 1764, there were only 9 or 10 clocks in the pariſh, whereas, at preſent, there are above 60.

Diſadvantages.—It is apprehended, that Tillicoultry will decreaſe in the number of its inhabitants, from the following cauſes:—1ſt The diviſion of the common in the hills.—2d The ſale of many of the feus, each of which maintained families;—3d The neglect of the coal; and, 4th, The ſmall attention and encouragement which is given to the weaving of Tillicoultry ſerge. It muſt be acknowledged, however, that the eſtabliſhment of the Devon Company, in the immediate neighbourhood, will, perhaps, overbalance all theſe apparent diſadvantages, though the writer of this account is by no means ſanguine in his expectation of that effect.

Sources of Melioration.—The following particulars are humbly ſubjoined, as probable ſources of improvement, and melioration:—1ſt, If the public ſchool were ſituated more in the centre

centre of the pariſh, or if a ſchool were eſtabliſhed at Coalsnaughton. 2dly, If a bridge were built over the Dovan, below the Weſtertown. 3dly, If the farmers were to fallow more of their land, and to pay more attention to ſowing wheat. 4thly, If ſome encouragement were given to the weaving of Tillicoultry ſerge. 5thly, If the coal were to be wrought as extenſively as formerly, for ſupplying the country and the foreign markets. 6thly, If a waggon-way were made for carrying the coals to Alloa harbour. 7thly, If a navigable canal were made by means of the Devon to join the Forth. 8thly, If ſome public works, ſuch as an woolen manufactory, or a cotton mill, or a printing field, were erected at the Weſtertown, as the ſituation is thought highly convenient and advantageous for ſuch uſeful works. But the great ſources of improvement and melioration are, honeſty, induſtry, ſobriety, and a regard to religion, without which, and the bleſſing of God, all human ſchemes will be nugatory and vain.

NUMBER.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF BENHOLME.

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE, PRESBYTERY OF FORDUN, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES SCOTT, *Miniſter.*

Extent and Surface.

THIS pariſh is about 3 Engliſh miles in length, and nearly as much in breadth. The German Ocean bounds it on the S. E. The face of the country is conſiderably diverſified. Cloſe upon the ſhore lies a narrow ſtrip of land almoſt level with the ſea: Adjoining to this, a bank or riſing ground, of conſiderable height, extends the whole length of the pariſh. Above this ancient boundary of the ocean, which is ſteep in ſome places, and ſlopes gently in others, the ground riſes by an unequal aſcent towards the N. W. A chain of little hills, whoſe ſummits are covered with heath, run along the S. W. boundary, and a riſing ground, ſome hundred yards above the level of the ſea, terminates the view on the N. E. The interior parts of the pariſh conſiſt of hill and dale.

Rivulets, Caſcades, Mill, Cave, &c.—Two ſmall rivulets, ariſing on the ſide adjacent adjacent to Garrock, at ſome diſtance from each other, add not a little to the agreeable variety. In ſome places they form deep gulfs, in others beautiful caſcades; now they are ſeen meandring amidſt corn-fields or paſture grounds, then they run under two ſtone arches; and afterwards, daſhing among craigs and fragments of rock, unite their ſtreams a little below the church. Having contributed to diverſify and adorn a tract of ſome miles, they add to the conveniences of life by ſupplying with water the only corn mill within the pariſh. Down the ſtream, in a ſequeſtered retreat, where there is ſcarcely any thing to be ſeen but the firmament, and a wide expanſe of ocean, there is a cave of ſufficient height to admit a man in an erect poſture. This ſubteraneous abode gradually turns lower towards the extremity, and ſeems originally to have been formed by the daſhing of the waves, though it is now diſtant from the ſhore a full quarter of a mile, and more than 12 feet above the preſent bed of the rivulet.

Villages, Sea Coaſt, Shipwrecks, &c.—The opening of the land here bears a ſtrong reſemblance to a creek or harbour, which tends to miſlead ſuch as are unacquainted with the coaſt, which is flat and rocky. A ſmall village of 15 houſes, built upon the beach, contributes to this miſtake, and while it ſeems to promiſe aſſiſtance to the diſtreſſed mariner, allures him to deſtruction. Several veſſels have ſuffered ſhipwreck by attempting to run aſhore at this place; and the utmoſt exertion of the people at land has ſeldom been effectual to reſcue their crews from the fury of the waves. This place is called the *Haughs of Nether Benholme*, lies almoſt in a direct line with the church, and is nearly ſituated in the middle between the fiſhing towns of *Gurdon* and *Johnſhaven*; one

one of which is in the parish of Bervie, and the other in this parish.

Fish, Kelp, &c.—The coast abounds with fish of various kinds. Cod, ling, skate, halibut, and some turbet are caught from March to the end of July: Haddocks, small cod, whitings, and a few flounders, are taken all the year round, but in greatest plenty from October to the middle of February. Crabs and lobsters, limpets and periwinkels, are likewise in abundance. Numbers of porpoises, seals, and sometimes whales, are seen close upon the coast. The rocks produce dulce and tangles, with various sea-weeds, which are converted into kelp. What quantity of this article may be annually exported is uncertain. It cannot be inconsiderable, however, as the people employed in making it are able to pay a yearly rent of 12l. to the proprietors, for liberty to crop the growth of their rocks.

Climate.—The climate varies considerably in different parts of this parish, according to the exposure and height of the ground. It is often mild and temperate upon the shore, when it is cold and piercing in the more inland parts. During the spring and summer months, thick mists frequently arise from the sea; so that the air along the coast is damp, though not unhealthy, being purified by the North and West winds. These winds are both so frequent and strong here, that young trees are generally observed to incline towards the S. E.

Soil.—The soil upon the shore is light and gravelly: in some places, nothing but naked stones appear; but where these have been covered with earth brought down from the higher grounds, either by human industry or the winter rains, good crops are produced, when the season is not remarkably dry. Farther up, the soil is deeper and more fer-

tile. A few farms on the S. W. ſide of the pariſh are light and gravelly. Of ſome the ſoil is a deep rich loam; but in the middle, and on the N. E. ſide, it chiefly inclines to clay. Part lies on a cold tilly bottom, and part on rock; but having the advantage of a ſouthern expoſure, and being ſheltered by the riſing grounds from the North, it produces luxuriant crops, when properly cultivated. In the interior parts lies a conſiderable tract of moor, where the qualities of the ſoil are various. Some places are wet and ſpungy, others dry and gravelly; but the greateſt part is capable of being cultivated.

Plantations.—The number of acres occupied in planting, both of moor and pleaſure grounds, does not exceed 50. The Scotch fir is not found to thrive here; but the larch and other foreſt trees make conſiderable progreſs in dens, and ſuch places as are ſheltered from the ſea air. Cloſe upon the coaſt, great trouble and expence is neceſſary to raiſe trees. They require to be planted very thick, and after all ſeldom come to any ſize.

Agriculture and Produce.*—None of the proprietors of this pariſh, who cultivate their own grounds, ſtrictly adhere to any particular rotation of crops. Nor are the tenants bound to follow what their maſters do not practiſe. In huſbandry, where

* In ſo little repute was farming before the year 1712, that the proprietor of Brotherſton found it neceſſary to give premiums in order to induce tenants to rent his farms. To one he gave a preſent of 500 merks Scotch, and farm-ſtocking to the value of 2000 merks, free of intereſt for three years; to another the ſame ſum in a preſent, and 3000 merks value of ſtock for his farm, free of intereſt for 4 years. There is no neceſſity now for holding out pecuniary temptations to the farmer. Since the above mentioned period, the rents are tripled, and numbers are ſtill ready to offer a conſiderable advance, when the leaſe of a farm expires.

where much depends on the ſeaſon, it is perhaps better to leave the practical farmer unfettered. If he is poſſeſſed of diſcernment, he will naturally adopt that mode of cultivation, which, on a ſoil ſimilar to his own, he obſerves to ſucceed beſt: if he is bound to follow a certain rotation, he can profit but little either by his own or his neighbour's experience. Some reſtrictions towards the end of the leaſe, to prevent the land from being over-cropped, are doubtleſs neceſſary, and generally made by every proprietor, when he lets a farm. The general practice of the farmers in this pariſh, when the ſoil is light, is to ſow wheat after fallow which has been limed and dunged; then barley, to which ſucceeds peaſe; and then barley again, with clover and graſs ſeeds, which are allowed to continue in the ground from 2 to 5 years. Oats are generally ſown, when the *ley* or ſward is broken up; next ſucceeds barley and then fallow. Where the ſoil inclines to clay, the common rotation of crops is wheat, beans, barley and graſs ſeeds, which are ſeldom allowed to continue longer in the ground than two years; oats, barley, and then a fallow. Beſides the crops already mentioned, a conſiderable quantity of turnips is annually raiſed; but very little flax, except what is neceſſary for the uſe of private families. This may be owing in ſome meaſure to the want of lint-mills in the neighbourhood, or more probably to the nature of the ſoil, which in general is not adapted to the growth of this uſeful plant. Potatoes, yams, and cabbages, are likewiſe planted in the fields, and turn to good account. Some attempts have been made of late to introduce early oats, and it is to be hoped their utility, in a ſoil which is naturally late, will ſoon recommend them to general uſe. Seed time and harveſt greatly depend on the ſeaſon; when that is favourable, they begin here to ſow in March, and to reap about the firſt of September. Wheat is generally ſown in October.

October. A greater quantity of every ſort of grain is raiſed within this pariſh than is neceſſary for its ſupport. The principal extraneous manure made uſe of here is lime, which is chiefly brought by land carriage, from a quarry in the pariſh of St Cyrus, not two miles diſtant. Many farmers, however, find their account in importing it from the Frith of Forth, and even from Sunderland. All agree that it is an eſſential requiſite in farming. Forty bolls have commonly been alloted to an acre; but many begin to think that a much greater proportion is neceſſary for ſtrong land.

Ploughs, Cattle, &c.—There are from 36 to 40 ploughs in this pariſh. About 6 of theſe are drawn by oxen, which are chiefly made uſe of where the land is rugged. When it is in an improved ſtate, horſes are employed, and 2 are thought ſufficient for a plough. The Scotch plough is generally uſed here, and ſeems beſt adapted to the nature of the ſoil; though ſeveral Norfolk wheel-ploughs are employed with advantage on ſuch farms as are free from ſtones, and in a high ſtate of cultivation. Conſiderable attention is beſtowed on rearing, but very little on feeding black-cattle, though the demand for butcher meat daily increaſes. Nor has this inducement hitherto prevailed on the farmer to feed more ſheep than is neceſſary for the uſe of his own family.

Rents, Incloſures, Leaſes, &c.—By a ſurvey of the county, taken in 1774, this pariſh contains 4721 Engliſh acres, of which nearly a fifth part is uncultivated. The reſt is divided into 20 farms. Twelve of theſe yield from 50l. to 210l. the other 8 from 20l. to 50l. Sterling of yearly rent. The beſt arable land is let at from 1l. to 1l. 17s. an acre: And, when it is divided into ſmall portions, from 2l. to 2l. 6s. Land of an inferior quality is not let by the acre, but by the piece,

piece, as parties can agree. There may be about 4 or 5 ſmall farms let in this way, the yearly rent ariſing from each of which will not amount to 20l. Sterling. Several farms are incloſed, but a greater number ſtill lie open. In this reſpect there is great room for improvement here. The farmers, indeed, are not inſenſible to the advantages of incloſing, but it is ſcarcely to be expected that they will lay out the neceſſary expence to make incloſures, on ſo ſhort a leaſe as 19 years. Unleſs proprietors hold out ſome inducement, either by increaſing the length of their leaſes, or advancing the neceſſary ſums at a moderate intereſt, it is to be feared that many of the fields will continue long in their preſent naked and expoſed ſtate. The valued rent of the pariſh amounts to about 3980l. 9s. 8d. The real rent may be about 1800l. Sterling.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The patronage of the church was, ſome time after the beginning of laſt century, veſted in the proprietors of the eſtates of Benholme, Brotherſton, and Nether Benholme, who continue to exerciſe their right by turns *. Two of theſe gentlemen conſtantly reſide in the pariſh, and a third, occaſionally. The church, which ſtands nearly in the centre, and moſt agreeable part of the pariſh, is an old irregular Gothic building. On the Eaſt end, a part is raiſed

* About the beginning of the laſt century, the greateſt part of the property within this diſtrict belonged to Earl MARISCHAL, whoſe ancient dominion, in theſe parts, can now only be traced from records and monumental inſcriptions. Not long after that period, all this pariſh, except BALANDRO, formed the eſtate of Benholme, and belonged to a proprietor of the name of KEITH, who was probably a younger branch, or near relation of the Mariſchal Family. It was afterwards divided among his heirs into four portions, which now compoſe different eſtates of Benholme, Brotherſton, Nether Benholme, and Knox.

raiſed higher than the reſt, which formerly ſerved for the choir, and ſtill retains the name, though it has been long uſed as a burying place. The remains of a font are ſtill to be ſeen at one of the church doors, and other relics of ſuperſtition, which evidently ſhow that the whole has been built before the Reformation. The manſe was built about 58 years ago, and repaired in 1791. The living conſiſts of 128 bolls of bear and oat-meal, in equal portions; 30l. in money, and a glebe of 6 acres. It is difficult to ſay what the original number of Seceders in this pariſh was; but they now amount to about 100 ‖. The other diſſenters belonging to the pariſh, are, 12 Epiſcopalians, 2 Bereans, and 1 Roman Catholic.

School.—The ſchool is near to the church, and well attended. Reading, writing, arithmetic, Latin, book-keeping, and navigation, are all taught by the ſame maſter, whoſe emoluments are as follow:

Yearly

‖ All the inhabitants of this pariſh, except a few, who continued their attachment to the Epiſcopal religion, were regular attendants on public worſhip, as eſtabliſhed in the Church of Scotland, till about the year 1763. At that time, the miniſter's anxiety to improve the church-muſic, led him to adopt the more approved method of ſinging without intermiſſion, or *reading the line*, as it is called. This gave umbrage to many, who had been accuſtomed to hear every line ſeparately given out by the precentor or clerk, before the congregation joined in the pſalm. They were forced to acknowledge that the pſalmody would be improved by ſinging without interruption; but they urged, that many who could not *read*, would, by that means, be entirely excluded from joining in this part of public worſhip. Whether a regard to the good of others, was the *real*, or only the *oſtenſible* cauſe of this oppoſition; or whether it proceeded from a dread of *innovation*, they perſiſted in it. They remonſtrated again and again; and when their remonſtrances were not attended to, abandoned the church, built one for themſelves in Johnſhaven, and invited a miniſter of the Seceſſion to ſettle among them.

Yearly ſalary,	L. 6	18	10½
Donation for teaching poor ſcholars,	1	5	0
Seſſion-clerk-fee, -	2	0	0
Perquiſites for regiſtering marriages and births, at an average of 10 years,	3	3	0
Quarterly payments, &c. -	12	0	0
Amounting altogether to	25	6	10½

Two occaſional ſchools, one for boys, and another for girls, are kept in Johnſhaven. The number of ſcholars attending each may be from 20 to 30.

Poor.—The number of poor in this pariſh is conſiderable, owing to the variety of aged and infirm perſons, who come from neighbouring pariſhes, and take up their reſidence in the town of Johnſhaven, when they are no longer fit for country work. Seldom fewer than 30 receive a monthly allowance from 2s. to 4s. and ſometimes 5s. each, according to their neceſſities. Small ſums are likewiſe occaſionally diſtributed among ſuch as are in ſtraitened circumſtances, yet not ſo indigent as to require a regular ſupply. It is generally underſtood, that the members of the Seſſion have a claim on whatever effects may be left by any one, who has been admitted on the poors-roll, to the full amount of the ſum advanced; ſo that few ſolicit this aſſiſtance, except thoſe who are really in want. The means of relieving ſuch are derived from various ſources, of which the chief are, the collections in the church on Sundays, which laſt year exceeded 35l. Sterling; the intereſt of different ſums, bequeathed for the uſe of the poor, in the lands of Benholme and Knox; the ſavings of former contributions; with better than 8l. annually for ſeat-rents, amounting altogether to more than 60l. Sterling. The diſtribution of this ſum falls within the pro-

vince of the miniſter and elders, who make it their buſineſs to become acquainted with the ſituation of the pariſhioners, to ſupply ſuch as are in want, and to diſcountenance begging. Few beggars of courſe belong to this pariſh; but it is much infeſted by vagrants, eſpecially from the North. Beſides the other charitable donations, under the management of the kirk-ſeſſion, there is a fund for teaching poor ſcholars, and ſupplying them with books. An annual collection is likewiſe made at the church doors, for the Infirmary of Aberdeen, which entitles the poor to medical advice and aſſiſtance, when they labour under any bodily diſtreſs, and likewiſe to proper accomodation, while their cure is performing. In few places, perhaps, are the induſtrious and deſerving poor better provided for than here. Beſides the ſources of aſſiſtance already enumerated, they find a continual ſupply in the charitable diſpoſition of their more opulent neighbours.

Population.—The population within this pariſh, during the laſt 40 years, has been fluctuating. The total number of inhabitants, was

	In the Country.	*In the Town.*	*Total.*	*Difference.*
In 1753,	598	753	1351	
In 1755,			1367 Increaſe in 2 years	16
In 1773,			1715 Ditto in 18 years	348
			Total in 20 years	364
In 1793,	538	1019	1557 Decreaſe laſt 20 years	158
	Decreaſe 60	Increaſe 266	Total increaſe in 40 years	206

But as the ordinary eſtimate in the Statiſtical Account is only made from Dr Webſter's report, the increaſe between 1753 and 1755, muſt be deducted - - 16

Which makes the exact increaſe within 38 years 190

From

From the above ſtatement it appears, that though the numbers in the country part is diminiſhed 60, yet the town of Johnſhaven being 266 more numerous than it was in 1753, the population has increaſed on the whole 206 ſince that period. It is evident, however, from the following table, that the population has been gradually diminiſhing ſince the year 1773. The union of ſeveral ſmall farms into one has contributed to thin the country, and increaſe the number of town's people. But while one claſs of inhabitans was becoming more numerous in Johnſhaven, various cauſes conſpired to diſperſe another. It appears, from undoubted authority, that the ſea-faring people, with their families, in that town, about the year 1753, were equal to a third of the whole inhabitants of the pariſh; but in 1793, they did not exceed a-ſixth part of that number; ſo that this claſs of inhabitants has been rapidly declining for the laſt 40 years.

TABLE OF POPULATION IN THE PARISH OF BENHOLME, *collected from private Bills of Mortality, kept by the late Reverend* MR ROBERT YOUNG.

			Births.			Deaths.		
Years.	No. of Souls.	Marriages.	*Mal.*	*Fem.*	*Tot.*	*Mal.*	*Fem.*	*Tot.*
1753	1351	9	19	22	41	18	21	39
1754	1382	8	28	18	46	21	16	37
1755	1367	11	29	26	55	6	16	22
1756	1378	10	31	30	61	19	18	37
1757	1385	5	29	13	42	11	15	26
1758	1414	10	27	26	53	21	31	52
1759	1425	9	19	22	41	9	14	23
1760	1491	10	32	22	54	13	13	26
1761	1516	8	27	17	44	18	19	37
1762	1494	12	15	32	47	27	29	56

Statistical Table of Benholme continued.

Years.	No. of Souls.	Marriages.	Births.			Deaths.		
			Mal.	*Fem.*	*Tot.*	*Mal.*	*Fem.*	*Tot.*
1763	1499	15	26	21	47	29	29	58
1764	1513	11	23	18	41	6	12	18
1765	1543	19	37	24	61	11	11	22
1766	1575	11	19	23	42	11	7	18
1767	1613	10	24	27	51	19	15	34
1768	1607	13	24	22	46	19	22	51
1769	1659	10	28	23	51	24	35	59
1770	1655	11	31	26	57	15	15	30
1771	1713	12	22	11	33	22	15	37
1772	1666	15	30	26	56	25	24	49
1773	1715	10	26	19	45	29	21	50
1774	1676	14	17	21	38	16	14	30
1775	1638	7	23	31	54	14	18	32
1776	1657	17	24	16	40	22	28	50
1777	1668	10	31	25	56	15	18	33
‡ 1778		14	25	21	46	21	20	41
1779		14	23	39	61	19	14	33
1780		15	21	23	44	20	28	48
1781		15	26	28	54	10	13	23
1782		18	26	23	49	19	17	36
1783		8	20	18	38	19	22	41
1784		15	30	32	62	32	29	61
1785		7	18	23	41	21	21	42
1786		9	22	19	41	22	25	47
1787		13	21	26	47	12	23	35

Statistical

‡ *The number of souls from the year* 1778 *to the year* 1789 *cannot be found among the bills of mortality. In these years died*

	Mal.	*Fem.*	*Total*
Between the age of 70 *and* 80	23	26	49
——— 80 *and* 90	18	15	33
——— 90 *and* 100	6	0	

In 1777, *the number of widows in the parish amounted to* 94 *of widowers* 49

In 1793, *the number of widows were* 44 *of widowers* 18

STATISTICAL TABLE OF BENHOLME CONTINUED.

YEARS.	No. of SOULS.	MARRIAGES.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
			Mal.	*Fem.*	*Tot.*	*Mal.*	*Fem.*	*Tot.*
1788		8	14	22	36	19	21	40
89	1573	7	26	31	57	23	20	43
90	1594	12	20	19	39	18	25	43
91	1560	10	23	19	42	19	18	37
92	1559	18	19	24	43	23	25	48
93	1557	14	24	19	43	18	11	29

LIST *of* DISEASES, *and of the* NUMBER *of* PEOPLE *who died under each, from* 1778 *to* 1788, *inclusive: Drawn up by the late Reverend* Mr ROBERT YOUNG *Minister of Benholme.*

Years.	*Fevers.*	*Russ Fevers.*	*Consumption.*	*Decay.*	*Dropsy.*	*Palsy.*	*Old Age.*	*Small-pox.*	*Chincough*	*Child bed.*	*Casualties.*	*Asthma.*
1778 ‖	5	0	5	4	1	0	6	0	2	1	3	0
79	7	0	0	7	2	3	2	2	0	0	1	0
80	6	0	2	9	1	0	4	13	0	0	1	0
81	2	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
82	6	2	0	6	5	0	5	0	0	0	2	1
83	4	0	0	10	2	1	3	0	0	0	4	2
84	4	0	0	7	1	1	4	24	0	1	3	1
85	10	0	1	9	2	1	2	0	0	2	3	1
86	7	0	7	7	1	2	3	0	6	1	4	0
87	4	3	1	7	3	2	3	4	0	0	3	0
88	5	0	5	1	8	1	3	0	0	0	0	1
	60	5	21	77	29	11	36	43	8	7	24†	8

‖ *From* 1789, *the births and deaths of those belonging to the Secession are omitted. Whether they have been inserted in the previous years, is uncertain; though it is highly probable, from* Mr YOUNG's *accuracy, that they would.*

† *Of the* 24 *under casualties,* 6 *were drowned,* 2 *suffocated,* 1 *killed in battle,* 1 *by a fall from a horse,* 1 *by a bite of a mad dog, and* 1 *by falling into the fire. In the bills are several other diseases, which are omitted on account of the small number that died of them.*

Fiſhery.—About the year 1722, JOHNSHAVEN ſeems to have ranked among the firſt fiſhing towns in Scotland; 26 boats were then employed in the fiſhery, 13 of which carried each from 8 to 10 tons burden, the other 13, from 5 to 6 tons. A large boat's crew, including one or two boys, generally conſiſted of 10, a ſmall boat's, 8. Three of the crew were called *ſkippers*, who had a ſhare in the boat, kept her in repair, and became bound to indemnify the proprietor of the town for the ſum of 100 ‡ merks Scotch, which he advanced to aſſiſt in building the boat; and alſo to pay a yearly rent of 2l. 10s. Sterling. To defray this expence, the ſkippers were entitled to every fifth fiſh taken, beſides their own deal or ſhare. Large boats were employed from the beginning of May till the firſt of Auguſt, in catching cod, ling, &c. or in what is called the *out ſea fiſhing*, from the fiſhing ground lying at the diſtance of 40 or 50 miles from ſhore. In favourable weather, they generally continued one, two, or three nights at ſea. During the months of Auguſt and September, they brought a ſufficient quantity of coals and peats from the Frith of Forth to ſupply the neighbourhood through the ſeaſon: after which theſe large boats were laid up for winter. The ſmall boats were then employed in catching haddocks, whitings, &c. till the end of February, when the *near great fiſhing*, about 8 or 10 miles from land, commenced. In this they were engaged, always leaving their lines at ſea one night or more, according to the weather, till the beginning of May, when the large boats were again launched into the deep. The great fiſh were purchaſed by Montroſe merchants, ſalted and ſent up the Mediterranean. The ſmall

‡ This money only became payable when the boat was no longer fit to go to ſea.

ſmall fiſh found a ready market in the Frith of Forth, and the price of them formed a ſtock for the fiſhers to trade with in Autumn.

Cauſes of its Decline.—In this manner was the fiſhing ſucceſsfully carried on till the year 1743, when two of the boats foundered at ſea. This was a ſevere ſtroke, and followed by another, a few years after, equally deſtructive to the fiſhing, though not ſo fatal to the crews. As the boats were returning from the ſea in 1756, a tender intercepted 3 of them, and impreſſed the ſtouteſt of their men. A demand from government of every *fifth* man to ſerve on board the fleet ſoon followed. The fiſhers were obliged to comply with the neceſſity of the times, by either going themſelves, or bribing others in their ſtead: and thus purchaſed protections for thoſe who remained, at a great expence. Reduced in men and money, they were unable, by the end of the war in 1763, to fit out more than 8 large boats, and as many ſmall. In 1768, they were harraſſed by *Preſs-gangs*, and forced to raiſe a new levy, at the rate of 10l. or 12l. a man. Diſtreſſed with ſo many demands, and deprived of the means of ſupplying them, many ſtout young men abandoned the fiſhing, and bound themſelves apprentices to colliers, in order to avoid ſerving on board the navy;—a ſervice, from which the impolitic, though ſometimes neceſſary, meaſure of *impreſſing* is calculated to create averſion. The boats were now poorly mann'd, and unable to go to ſea, unleſs in very favourable weather. Through the poverty of their owners, they fell to pieces, one after another, till the year 1776, when they were reduced to 5. The commencement of a new war created a new demand for men. Tenders and preſs-gangs perſecuted them at ſea and ſhore, and prevented them from earning bread to their families. It therefore became

came neceſſary to ſtrain the laſt nerve, which many of them did, by raiſing the enormous contribution of 15l. for every man who was demanded, in order to procure protections for the reſt. But now, by an unwarrantable breach of good faith, protections ſerved only as a *paſsport to the Navy*. One of the boat-maſters was impreſſed with his protection in his pocket, and died on board the *Saliſbury* ſhip of war going out to the Weſt Indies. The exactions made on the fiſhers, during laſt war, gave a deciſive blow to the fiſhery at Johnshaven; and deprived the nation of a valuable nurſery for hardy ſeamen. It is now reduced to one large boat in ſummer, and 4 or 5 yawls in winter, whoſe crews conſiſt of old men and boys, ſcarce fit to manage an oar. Thus do the unjuſtifiable means, which are had recourſe to for the temporary ſupport of any ſtate, frequently tend to its final deſtruction. Had greater moderation been uſed in demanding levies from Johnſhaven, during former wars, it might ſtill have retained its rank among fiſhing towns, and been able, on the preſent emergency, to contribute to the general ſupport of the nation.

Another cauſe concurred in depopulating the ſea-faring part of the town, though the ruin of the fiſhery can only be aſcribed to the hardſhips impoſed on the fiſhers by levying and impreſſing them. Many no doubt returned from the wars richer than when they went away; but, after being accuſtomed to a navy life, they returned with ideas *above* fiſhing, as may be ſuppoſed, when the caſe of handing a ſail is compared with the labour of tugging at the oar. The prize money and wages many of them had gained, ſerved to purchaſe ſmall veſſels, which they employed in the coaſting trade; and their habits of induſtry, acquired in early life, by degrees raiſed them to larger. But the harbour of Johnshaven being unſafe for veſſels of any conſiderable burthen in winter

winter, it became neceſſary for them to quit their native place, where their property could not be protected, and to take up their reſidence where ſhips might be ſecure in all ſeaſons. Owing to this cauſe, 15 maſters of veſſels from 50 to 150 tons burden, with their families, have removed to Montroſe ſince the year 1766. An equal number of veſſels, about the ſame burthen, ſtill belong to Johnſhaven, which cannot be brought there with ſafety during winter. The maſters of theſe have hitherto ſtruggled with the inconvenience of having their families in one place, and their property in another, nearly one half of the year; but it is more than probable, that they will follow the example of their neighbours, unleſs ſome material improvement is made upon the harbour.

Pier and Propoſed Improvement.—A ſmall pier or wharf has been erected of late, by means of which veſſels may load and unload at any time of the tide, in favourable weather; but till a bulwark is raiſed to break the force of the ſea, it never can become a place of ſafety; and any thing ſhort of that can add little to the proſperity of the town. The expence neceſſary for this purpoſe, according to an eſtimate made by an architect, who viewed the ground in 1754, would not exceed 900 l. Nature has indeed laid the foundation, and likewiſe furniſhed the materials for building a proper harbour. On the eaſt ſide, a ledge of free ſtone rocks, about 30 yards broad, reaches from high water, at neap tide, to low water at ſpring tide, which are ſeldom overflowed except in ſevere ſtorms. On the Weſt ſide, a number of flat rocks run out from the beach S. S. W. into the open ſea, cloſe by the ſide of which there is 6 or 8 fathom water. The South end of theſe is covered by half tide, when ſmall veſſels may enter the harbour, though they cannot, until near full ſea, reach the

preſent warf. In ordinary tides the depth of the harbour is from 10 to 12 feet, which might be farther increaſed at no great expence, as the bottom is a ſoft marly rock.

Probable Advantages.—Were the advantages ariſing from a ſafe harbour at Johnshaven confined to the town or even neighbourhood, they might be thought ſcarcely equivalent to the expence neceſſary to procure them: But when it is conſidered that a great part, one half at leaſt of the county, would profit greatly by this improvement, the expence muſt appear inconſiderable. If the utility of the deſign were attended to, it is highly probable that the time of its execution might not be very diſtant. Many obſtacles, which have hitherto prevented manufactures from flouriſhing in this part of the county, would then be removed; and the expence of land carriage, which is more or leſs a draw back upon every branch of trade, would be greatly diminiſhed. To veſſels employed in the coaſting trade it would prove of the utmoſt conſequence, as they might find an eaſy and ſafe retreat here from the ſtorm, in certain winds, when it would be deſtruction for them to attempt landing on any other part of the coaſt, betwixt the Frith of Forth and the Murray Frith.

Trade and Commerce.—The trade here chiefly conſiſts in importing coals and exporting grain. A ſufficient quantity of the former article is brought in ſummer from Sunderland, and the Frith of Forth, to ſupply the town and neighbourhood through the year. Some cargoes of lime are alſo brought from the ſame places, for the uſe of the farmer. Till of late, Montroſe was the only market for grain in this neighbourhood, when two merchants in Johnshaven were tempted, by the ſituation of the place, to commence dealers in grain

grain. The adventure has not only proved advantageous to themſelves, but highly beneficial to the neighbourhood. The farmer being enabled to deliver his grain in leſs than one half the time which was formerly required, has it more in his power to embrace a favourable ſeaſon when it offers. This is of the utmoſt moment here, where the nature of the ſoil, in many places is ſuch, that it can only be plowed to advantage between wet and dry. The ſhort carriage, therefore, gives them a decided preference above other merchants, who live at a greater diſtance, ſo that they purchaſe moſt of the barley produced for many miles around, which they either convert into malt, for the Norway market, or ſend to the Frith of Forth. From 3000 to 4000 bolls of grain are annually exported

Manufactures.—A manufacture of ſail cloth has of late been eſtabliſhed in the town of Johnshaven, by a Company of Dundee merchants. This affords employment at times to about 50 men, beſides a number of women. To form a fair opinion of any undertaking in its infancy is difficult, but were the harbour improved, there is every probability that this would ſucceed, as it would then labour under no local diſadvantage.

TABLE *of* TRADESMEN, MECHANICS, &c. *within the Pariſh.*

Merchants,	2	Inn-keepers in the town,	4
Surgeon,	1	Ditto in the country,	1
School-maſters,	2	Smiths,	8
Shore-maſter,	1	Maſons,	14
Exciſe-officer,	1	Ship-carpenters,	3
Tide-waiter,	1	Houſe ditto,	10
Shop-keepers §,	18	Cabinet-maker,	1

Wheel-

§ Moſt of theſe give out flax to be ſpun.

Wheel-wrights,	2	Malt-men,	4
Weavers,	63	Barbers,	2
Stocking ditto,	1	Male domeſtic ſervants,	3
Shoe-makers.	12	Female ditto,	20
Tailors,	14	Male farm ſervants,	56
Butchers,	4	Female ditto,	28
Millers,	2	Farms above 50l.	10
Bakers,	3	Ditto under that rent,	14
Gardeners,	4	Overſeers,	2
Slaters,	2	Country day-labourers,	23
Flax dreſſers,	5	Ship-maſters,	15
Chapman,	5	Seamen and boys,	40
Carriers,	4	Two-wheel carts,	48
Penny poſt between Bervie and Johnſhaven,	1	Draught horſes,	96
		Four-wheel carriages	3

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—Of late the price of labour and proviſions has greately increaſed; 5 l. *per annum* would have been conſidered as high wages for the beſt ploughman a few years ago; now 8 l. would be offered in vain. From 30 s. to 2 l. were the common yearly wages of female ſervants; of late they receive from 3 l. to 4 l; a day-labourer within theſe few years thought himſelf well paid with 8d, but now expects 1 s. per day. Except among houſe carpenters and maſons, who daily receive from 1s. 6d. to 2s, the advance of wages has not been ſo rapid in other occupations. As many employed in theſe, however, are paid by the piece, their income cannot be mentioned with certainty. Butcher meat, within the laſt 30 years, has riſen from one 1d. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ *per pound*, and many other articles of proviſion in a higher proportion.

Minerals.—In this pariſh there are ſeveral quarries of free ſtone, and one in particular upon the eſtate of Benholme, of an excellent quality. All the rocks on the coaſt chiefly con-

ſiſt

ſift of this ſort of ſtone; but what is found within flood mark, being impregnated with ſaline particles, always retains a moiſture, and is therefore improper for building dwelling houſes. Mill ſtone of a good quality is found in many places along the ſhore.

Roads and Bridges.—The poſt road leading from Montroſe to Aberdeen runs through this pariſh, in a line almoſt parellel with the coaſt, and nearly at the diſtance of a mile from it. Not far from the church, and near to each other, there are two ſtone bridges upon this road, which contribute much to its improvement. A different direction, however, would be neceſſary to render it completely eaſy, as the ground, both on the Eaſt and Weſt ſides of theſe bridges, riſes to a conſiderable height. From the nature of the ſoil, and the difficulty of bringing gravel from the ſhore, the high way has hitherto been deep in winter. Nor are the croſs roads in a better ſtate. The ſtatute labour is inſufficient, and is performed with reluctancy. A turnpike has often been propoſed through this county, and will doubtleſs in the end be found the only means for promoting ſocial intercourſe, by rendering travelling more comfortable.

Diſadvantages.—Deep roads and a bad harbour are the only material diſadvantages under which this diſtrict labours. *Fuel* is no doubt ſcarce; but were the harbour improved, the opportunity of landing coals at all ſeaſons, would prevent the want of any other kind of fuel from being felt. At preſent many poor people frequently pay an exorbitant price for this neceſſary article, and are often obliged to endure the rigour of the cold, from not being able in ſummer to lay in a ſufficient ſupply.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—Among the few antiquties in this pariſh, may be mentioned a ſquare tower, which was the ancient reſidence of the family of Benholme, and is ſtill kept in repair, though not inhabited. From its peninſular ſituation, thickneſs of walls, and battlements on the roof; this building ſeems to have been originally intended for a place of ſtrength; and before the uſe of artillery, was probably not ill calculated to reſiſt the ſudden attack of an enemy. When this ſtrong hold was built is uncertain. On the ſummit of the neareſt hill to the ſea, except one, bordering with the pariſh of Cyrus, and commanding an extenſive proſpect, ſtands a rough ſtone, in the circumferenee of a ſtony circle, commonly called *the Cloach Stone.* It is more than a foot thick, meaſures 8 feet along the ground, and riſes nearly 6 above its ſurface, in an inclined direction towards the North. ‡

Character

‡ As there is no place in the neighbourhood, except one at the South corner of the pariſh, cloſe by the ſhore, where ſtones of the ſame quality are found, it appears to have been brought from thence, not without conſiderable difficulty, the intervening ſpace being a pretty ſteep aſcent of more than a mile. It would ſeem therefore to have been erected for ſome uſeful purpoſe, perhaps with a view to perpetuate ſome memorable event. Tradition ſays, a battle was fought near the place, and the number of flint heads of arrows, found on the ſide of the hill where it ſtands, affords ſome reaſon to credit this report. Between this and the coaſt, a great quantity of human bones has been dug up, in the courſe of improving the land, for nearly the ſpace of a mile along the riſing ground above Johnshaven. The bottom and ſides of the graves, containing theſe bones, were all lined with rough ſtones. It is difficult to account for ſo great a ſpace being occupied by dead bodies, on any other ſuppoſition than that of an engagement: At the ſame time, it ſeems doubtful whether ſuch a degree of attention would be beſtowed in burying all the dead ſlain in the field of battle, unleſs we conſider it as mark of regard from the ſurvivors, to thoſe who had probably fallen in defence of their country. There were no arms in any of theſe graves; but one or two have been found, in

Character and Manners.—Smuggling, which formermerly tended to debauch the morals of the ſea-faring-people, is no longer carried on within the bounds of this pariſh. Drunkenneſs and fighting are conſequently little heard of. Any petty ſquabbles, that now happen, ſeldom proceed farther than high words. A few proſecutions for ſcandalhave reformed the obnoxious practice of abuſive language, which was much in uſe, and taught the generality *to bridle their tongues*. Frugality, ſobriety, and induſtry, are the diſtinguiſhing characteriſtics of the country people. The inhabitants of Johnshaven are not deficient in the two firſt of theſe virtues, though there is ſtill room for amendment with regard to induſtry. Among every rank, however, both in country and town, there is *charity* enough to "cover a mul-"titude of ſins."

To Conclude.—About 50 years ago, the Exciſe officer's family was the only one in Johnshaven that made uſe of tea; when the tea kettle was carried to the well, to bring in water

in ſtone coffins of about 4 feet long, at a place called MOAT HILL, not far from the manſion houſe of Benholme. On an eminence bordering with Garvock, called *Kincbet*, or, more properly, *King's Seat Hill*, there is a large heap of ſtones or *Cairn*, where, according to tradition, a King ſat in judgement; among other complaints, many were lodged againſt MELVILE of Allardice, at that time Sheriff of the county, for his oppreſſion. The Royal Judge, either wearied with the complainers, or enraged at the offender, ſaid, probably in a peeviſh humour; "I wiſh that Sheriff were ſodden and ſupped in "broſe." Such was the ſavage barbarity of the times, that the Barons, who were little accuſtomed to the formalities of a trial, laid hold on theſe words, and put them literally in execution. The place where the deed was perpetrated, lyes at the bottom of the hills, on the ſide next Garvock, is not unlike the cavity of a kiln for drying corn, and ſtill retains the name of the SHERRIF'S KETTLE.

ter, numbers both of children and grown people followed it, expreſſing their wonder, and ſuppoſing it to be "*a beaſt* "*with a horn.*" In thoſe days of ſimplicity, a watch or an eight day clock would have created equal ſurpriſe. Now the tea kettle has loſt the power of aſtoniſhing, having become a neceſſary piece of furniture among the meaneſt: and one can ſcarcely enter a houſe where he is not put in mind of the fleeting of time from ſome one corner of it.

NUMBER.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF MONZIE,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE ERSKINE, *Minister.*

Origin of the Name.

ALL competent judges of the Gaelic agree that the name *Monzie* is derived from that language. But they differ a little about its orthography or ſignification. Some think it ſhould be wrote *Monieu*, which ſignifies *Deer Hill*, as probably at that period the hills abound with that ſpecies of game. Others think it ſhould be wrote *Moniui*, which ſignifies *hill foot*, and is very expreſſive of the ſituation of the habitable parts of the pariſh. But a third claſs maintain, and with the greateſt probability, that it ſhould be wrote *Moeghe*, which ſignifies *good plain*, as the low lying grounds are pretty fertile.

Extent, Form, and Situation.—The extent of this pariſh is very conſiderable, being from E. to W. 7 Engliſh miles, and

from N. to S. at the greateſt breadth, 12 miles. Its figure is irregular, perhaps ſomewhat ſimilar to the croſs. It is diſtant from the town of Perth 14 miles, and from the town of Crieff, 3 miles. The pariſh is a mountainous diſtrict. It lies on the ſouth ſide of the Grampian hills. The habitable part of the pariſh is divided into *the back* and *the fore part*, by a ridge of very high hills 4 miles in breadth. Each of theſe habitable parts is a narrow valley, encloſed by hills all the length of the pariſh, from E. to W.

Soil, Surface, Cultivation, and Produce, &c.—The ſoil of this pariſh is various, in general it is light, dry and good, but ſhallow. Part of it is gravelliſh; much of it moſſy, and ſome of it clay. By far the greateſt part of the pariſh conſiſts of hills and ſheep farms. The hills are partly green, but moſtly covered with heath, and the interjacent flats are covered with bent, and rather ſwampy. On the whole, not above a third part of the pariſh is arable: In the lower part of the pariſh, they are introducing the Engliſh ploughs, drawn with two horſes, and the man who holds, alſo drives it. In the more ſteep ground, they uſe the Scotch plough, drawn by 4 horſes, all a-breaſt, becauſe they think it anſwers better for going up hills. About the middle or end of the month of March, they ſow oats and peaſe, then their flax; after which they ſet potatoes; and laſt of all they ſow their barley. The earlieſt barley is ripe about the middle of Auguſt; the harveſt becomes general in September, and is finiſhed about the end of that month.

Climate, Diſeaſes, and Longevity.—The climate of this pariſh is good but various. Mild, gentle and dry in the vales, while the hills are hid in fog, or covered with ſnow, or waſhed with rains. A very common diſorder here, is the chronic rheumatiſm,

rheumatiſm, ſeizing the poorer ſort of people, eſpecially thoſe more advanced in life; and this chiefly is owing to their miſerable mode of living, the coldneſs and dampneſs of their houſes, and the ſcarcity and high price of fuel. Slow fevers too attack them about ſpring and autumn, but ſeldom prove mortal. Some, though very few, die of conſumption and palſey. The ſmall pox raged much here formerly, but is now much mitigated by the general introduction of innoculation. The air on the whole being ſalubrious, there are a number of inſtances of longevity in the pariſh. One man died lately aged 100 years; one is ſtill alive aged 92, who was formerly a day-labourer, and who is ſtill able to walk about, and ſee his friends; and there is a conſiderable number of healthy people, aged 70 and 80.

Rivers and Fiſh.—The *Amon*, or *Almon*, is the principal river. It runs through the Eaſt part of the pariſh, and interſects it about 12 miles. The river *Skaggie*, runs through the centre of the pariſh, and divides it for about 3 miles. The river *Keltie* runs through the pariſh, towards the Weſt end, interſecting it for about 2 miles: And, the ſmall river *Barvie* ſeparates this pariſh from that of Monivaird, for about 2 miles. All theſe rivers have their ſources in the northern part of this pariſh, and, after a variety of meandering circuits among the hills, they run directly South. The Amon, after approaching near the South ſide of this pariſh, runs eaſtward, until it empties itſelf into the Tay above Perth. The reſt of theſe rivers meet near the Weſt end of the pariſh, whence they run ſtill farther weſtward, in one ſtream, which empties itſelf into the river *Earn*, a little above Crieff. Each of theſe rivers, as well as a number of burns, which deſcend from the hills, and run into them, abound with good black trouts; and the Amon has a peculiar

liar ſpecies of fine white trouts. Some have been taken, which weighed from 3lb. to 4lb; and meaſured from 1 to 1½ foot long. Salmon grilſes have alſo been taken, from 7lb. to 10lb. weight; and at the ſpawning time, ſalmon have been got, (though contrary to law) weighing 20 lb.

Woods.—About 50 years ago, this pariſh abounded a great deal more in wood than it does at preſent. The back part of the pariſh, called *Glenalmon*, ſeems to have been once one continued foreſt, whereas now there is only one large pine tree to be ſeen in the whole of it. There is a conſiderable quantity of woodland ſtill in the fore part of the pariſh; it conſiſts of oaks, elms, beeches, birks, planes, and large ſaughs. There are 5 woods upon the eſtate of Monzie, two upon that of Calendar, and one upon that of Cultoquhey; and all of them are very thriving. Beſides theſe, there are beautiful and tall plantations around the manſion-houſes of Monzie and Cultoquhey. Theſe woods were cut and ſold within theſe few years, and brought a high price. Upon the banks of the rivers and burns, as well as in the dens, there is a conſiderable quantity of ſhrubs, which are both uſeful and ornamental.

Wild Animals.—The wild quadrupeds are hares, badgers, rabbits, roe-bucks, deers, foxes and otters. All the wild fowls and birds of prey, which are natives of the North of Scotland, frequent the woods: Thruſhes, linnets, black-birds, finches, ſtarlings, patridges, wild ducks, herons, muir fowl; hawks, ravens, hooded crows, and water crows; and ſometimes we are viſited by the eagle. The birds of the migratory kind are the ſwallow, cuckow, plover, feldtfare, and at times the king's-fiſher.

State of Property, Services, &c.—During theſe laſt 30 years, there has been no transfer of property in the pariſh.

A conſiderable part of it is incloſed, but the greater part of it ſtill lies open. The tenants are fully convinced of the great advantage of incloſing, and would very willingly give the proprietors intereſt for ſuch ſums as might be neceſſary for that purpoſe. However, as many of them have no leaſes of their farms, ſuch are diſcouraged even from that. The dread of being removed, where an avaricious neighbour offers an augmentation, or an unfeeling maſter accepts the bribe of iniquity, binds up the hand of induſtry, and bars the way of improvement. As the arable ground is of very different quality, ſo we find it let at very different rents. As to the *pendiclers*, they rent their grounds at 10s. to 25s. an acre. Thoſe who have large farms, rent the arable ground at from 8s. to 10s. an acre. The hill part of the pariſh, is let by the lump to thoſe farmers who are neareſt to it, and they pay a ſeparate rent for it; graſs parks have been let in this pariſh at 2l. 2s. per acre. A great deal of ſervices are ſtill performed by all of them to the proprietors, which increaſe the value of the rents. Theſe ſervices are chiefly farm work, with carriages of peats and coals. In the ceſs book, the valued rent of the pariſh is 2900l. Scotch; the real rent is nearly 1700l. Sterling. As there never was any ſurvey taken of this pariſh, the exact number of acres in it cannot be aſcertained. None of the land is common. Every proprietor knows exactly the marches of his own eſtate. The moſt of the hilly part is paſture, becauſe of its ſteepneſs, but the lower parts are cultivated and produce very well. There is but a very ſmall part of the pariſh thirled to their lairds mills, they being exempted from that bondage, and free to grind their corn where they pleaſe, upon conditions of their paying to the proprietor a ſum among them, equal to the rent of the mill, and this in proportion to their own rents.

Produce,

Produce, Exports, &c.—The principal crops raiſed in this pariſh, are oats, barley, flax, and potatoes. Of late, they have ſown ſome peaſe, rye, wheat, graſs ſeeds, and turnips, all of which do very well. As the produce, eſpecially of the fore part of the pariſh, is much greater than is neceſſary for the conſumption of its inhabitants, conſiderable quantities of butter, cheeſe, meal, mutton, beef, pork, oat-meal, barley, and potatoes, are diſpoſed of in the towns and places adjacent.

Horſes, Black-cattle, Sheep, and Wool.—The cattle are all of the ſmall kind, but good of their ſizes. All the high priced cattle belong to the low part of the pariſh, and are reared in gentlemen's parks. Grazing cattle is now become more common than it was formerly. The farmers in general, rear their own cattle, of every ſpecies, and thus *keep their Stock* (as they term it,) *alive*. They keep from 2 to 6 working horſes, each, and from 3 to 6, and ſome even 10 or 12 milk cows. It is believed, that there are 10,000 ſheep in the pariſh. They are of the Scotch beed, and very hardy. Their wool is good, and their fleſh very ſweet. The average prices of cattle, wool, &c. are as follows;

Working horſes ſell at from	L. 3	0	each, to	L. 8	0 0
Milk cows	2	0		8	0 0
Cattle for ſlaughter	1	10		7	0 0
Sheep	0	5		0	18 0
Wool	0	10	per ſtone,	0	12 0
Ditto ſmeared with tar	0	6		0	8 0

Population.—There is every reaſon to believe, that the population of this, as well as of ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes, has greatly diminiſhed, ſince the beginning of the preſent century. The remains of uninhabited houſes, the emi-

grations

grations of young people of both ſexes, who, thinking their parents oppreſſed in their farms, go away to other parts, and other employments; fewer of thoſe who remain joining in marriage now than formerly; and, above all, the monopoly of farms, which ſo much prevails; ſome individuals renting and farming lands, formerly poſſeſſed by 6, 8, or 10, and ſome even poſſeſſed by 20 tenants; theſe, and many other circumſtances, account for and prove the great decreaſe of the population. No enumeration of this pariſh, however, previous to the one drawn up in 1755, at the requeſt of Dr Webſter, has been made; or, if it was, can now be diſcovered. Upon comparing that report, however, with the reſult of an enumeration made by the preſent incumbent in 1792, the decreaſe within theſe 40 years does not appear ſo great, as, from the above cauſes, might have been expected:

For the number of ſouls in 1755, was -		1192
Ditto in 1792, - -		1136
Hence the decreaſe is only -		56
Of theſe there were examinable perſons,	703	1136
Children under that age, -	433	
Married perſons, - -	326	703
Widows and widowers, - -	83	
Bachelors and unmarried women, -	294	
Inhabitants in the village, - -		112
Poor on the roll, - -		10
The No. of births *, from December 1792 to December 1793, was - -		30
—— Marriages * within that period, -		9
—— Deaths *, - -		29

** No record of funerals had ever been kept in the pariſh previous to December 1792; nor, for a long time, was there even any regiſter of births or marriages; but, upon the moſt accurate enquiry that can be made, the above appear to be the average numbers for many years paſt.

Conditions and Occupations.—All the inhabitants of this parish are either proprietors, farmers, tradesmen, or day-labourers. The great part of the farming work, is done by the farmers themselves, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. There is a great number of pendiclers and cottagers in this parish. The former class are those who rent a house and a small piece of ground from the proprietor; the latter rent it from the tenant, and are obliged to work to him during the harvest, and even at other times, if it be needful.

No. of proprietors,	6	—— Black-smiths,	4
—— Weavers,	54	—— Masons,	2
—— Coopers,	4	—— Millers,	4
—— Fleshers,	8	—— Licensed ale-sellers,	7
—— Wrights,	8	—— Farmers,	81
—— Sawers of wood,	6	—— Pendiclers,	61
—— Shoe-makers,	10	—— Cottagers,	86
—— Tailors,	12	—— Servants,	116
—— Gardiners,	2		

Manufactures.—The principal one in the parish is that of weaving. They weave all kinds of plain and tweeled linen, and woolen cloth; and these not only for their own use, but also for sale; the chief kinds of cloth made by them are plaiden, linen and scrims. The plaiden they sell at from 10d. to 14d. per yard. They make a very large quantity of linen cloth, and bleach it excellently themselves; it is of various degrees of fineness, and they sell it at from 1s. to 4s. per yard. Some families, where there are only two looms, have made and sold 1000 yards *per annum*. The scrim is a narrow linen cloth, of different degrees of fineness, and which they sell without bleaching it. It is all exported, perhaps for trowsers. The women spin a great deal of yarn, which they

make

make into cloth for ſale, and thus by their induſtry raiſe a part of their rent.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—Owing to the wet harveſt in 1792, proviſions roſe much in their price. Work here is generally done by the piece. The wages of domeſtic ſervants are nearly the ſame with thoſe of farm ſervants. The following are the average prices at preſent, (1793) both of proviſions and labour:

Prices of Provisions.				Prices of Labour.			
Oat meal, per peck,	L. 0	1	0	A day labourer, from March to November, per day, from 1s. to -	L. 0	1	6
Barley ditto, -	0	0	8	Ditto from Nov. to March, 8d. to -	0	1	0
Oats, per boll, from 16s. to	0	18	0	Ditto during harveſt and hay-making, -	0	1	6
Bear per ditto, 16s. to	1	0	0	A woman, at farm work in ſummer, -	0	1	0
Potatoes per peck, 3d. to	0	0	6	A joiner, -	0	1	6
Beef, mutton, veal, and pork, per lb. -	0	0	3½	A ſlater, -	0	2	0
A pig, -	0	4	0	A tailor, with maintainance,	0	0	8
A gooſe, -	0	2	6	A man ſervant *per annum*, with ditto, from L. 3 to	8	0	0
A duck, -	0	1	0	A woman, per ditto with ditto, L. 3 to	4	0	0
A turkey, -	0	3	0	A man in harveſt, for the ſeaſon, -	1	10	0
A hen, -	0	1	0	A woman in ditto, for ditto, 15s. to	1	0	0
A chicken, -	0	0	3				
Butter ‡, per lb.	0	0	9				
Cheeſe ‡ per ditto, from 2d. to -	0	0	3				

Eccleſiaſtical State, Heritors, &c.—All the inhabitants are of the eſtabliſhed church, excepting 1 Berean, 5 Epiſcopalians, and 30 Antiburgher Seceders. There are no Roman

‡ ‡ Butter and cheeſe are ſold by the tron weight, all other articles either by Engliſh or Dutch.

Catholics in this pariſh. All of theſe come occaſionally to the church, excepting the Antiburghers. The King is patron, but the family of Monzie have always had ſufficient intereſt to ſecure the preſentation as they wiſhed. The living conſiſts of 22 bolls of meal, 10 bolls of bear, and 53l. 6s. 6d. in money. The ſtipend is paid by 5 heritors, viz. Col. Campbell of Monzie, Mr Drummond of Logieamond, Mr Graham of Balgowan, Col. Robertſon of Lawers, and the Earl of Kinnoul. Col. Campbell is the only one who has a manſion houſe in the pariſh. The manſe and offices were all built within theſe 3 years. The glebe conſiſts of two parts; one near the manſe, containing about 5 acres of good arable ground; the other about a mile from the manſe, upon a ſmall eminence, containing about 3 acres of very bad ground. The church is 60 feet long, and 20 feet wide. It was built in 1685. It was lately repaired, is well ſeated, and very commodious. The pulpit, which is made of oak, bears date 1617. That part of the pariſh called *Glenalmon* is annexed *quoad ſacra* to the chapel of *Amblerie*. There is a village near the church.

Schools.—Until of late there were 4 ſchools in this pariſh. One in the North part, another in the Eaſt, a third in the South part, and the eſtabliſhed ſchool near the centre. In all of theſe were taught Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping. The firſt of theſe ſchools, owing to the union of farms, is given up, the teacher not being able to ſupport himſelf. The other 3 ſtill continue. The ſalary of the one at the Eaſt end of the pariſh is 5l. *per annum*, with a houſe and garden. It is paid by the Duke of ATHOL out of the biſhop's rents. His fees, however, for each of the branches taught are only 1s. per quarter. The number of ſcholars are from

40

40 to 60. The ſchool on the South ſide has no fixed ſalary, only a houſe and garden, given to him gratis by Mr Maxton of Culltoquhey. The fees are the ſame as above, for each branch only 1s. per quarter. The number of ſcholars are from 30 to 50. As to the eſtabliſhed ſchool, the number of ſcholars attending it are from 40 to 70. The maſter's ſalary and emoluments from the kirk ſeſſion, and keeping the regiſters, is about 12l. per annum; he has a free houſe and garden. The fees for Engliſh are 1s. per quarter, for writing 1s. 6d. per quarter, for arithmetic 2s. per quarter, and for a complete ſet of book-keeping 10s. 6d. All of theſe ſchools are very convenient for the pariſh, and the teachers are careful and diligent. Learning is now more generally diffuſed than formerly.

Poor.—The amount of the weekly collections is about 20l. a-year. Beſides this, there are the dues ariſing from the uſe of two mort-cloths, the intereſt of 120l. ſunk money, and penalties exacted from delinquents. The regular poor receive 2s. a-month, and the occaſional poor receive 5s. 10s. and ſometimes even 20s. at a time. All the poor are either maintained in their own houſes, or, when neceſſary, are boarded. The greateſt number of the poor earn about two-thirds of their maintainance. None belonging to the pariſh are allowed to beg, although many ſtranger vagrants infeſt it not a little.

Language and Etymologies.—This pariſh being ſituated on the borders of the Highlands, and having much intercourſe and connection with the natives, we need not be ſurpriſed to find that the Gaelic is ſpoken in the back part of it, and the old Scotch dialect in the fore part, pronounced with the Gaelic tone and accent. There are, however, very few perſons in

the whole pariſh, who do not either ſpeak or underſtand Gaelic. Moſt of the names of places are evidently derived from that language, and are expreſſive of their local ſituation. The following may ſerve as a ſpecimen; *Lethentys* ſignifies the broader country. *Kinnighragon*, the end of the rock. *Cultoquhey* is the Engliſh name for its original Gaelic name, *Comhal-cults*, *i. e.* Comhal's battle.

Bridges, Roads, Ale-houſes, Mills, and Markets.—Over the river *Almon* at Buchandy, there is a bridge of one arch, laid over another, and bearing date 1639. It was built by the Earl of Tullibardin when he had his ſummer reſidence in this place, the remains of which reſidence are ſtill to be ſeen. His arms are cut on it, and the initials of his own and his lady's names. The proper name of the bridge, however, is *M'Bean's bridge*, becauſe of a chapel originally near it, called *St M'Bean's* chapel ‖. On all the public roads there are good bridges. Thoſe upon the county road built by the county, and the others by ſubſcription. The roads here were kept up formerly by the ſtatute labour, which is generally very ill performed, and therefore it is now commuted. They pay from 8s. to 10s. each plough, and the pendiclers and cottagers pay 1s. 6d. a-year. There are 7 licenſed ale-houſes in the pariſh. There are 5 oat meal mills, and two flax mills. The

‖ Near the N. E. corner of the pariſh, there had been another chapel, but no veſtige of it is now to be ſeen. There is ſtill a burying ground in that place, and its ſituation is moſt romantic. Tradition ſays, that the evening before the battle of Lunkarty, 60 men took the ſacrament here, who all went to the field, and only 6 of them returned. In digging for marl a little to the weſt of Monzie, a part of a deer's horn was found, 7 inches in circumference; and the barrel of a gun, 5 feet long, 4 inches in circumference at the one, and 7 inches in circumference at the other end, 2 ſtones in weight. It had evidently been uſed before the invention of the locks, as the match hole is entire and plain.

The meal mills make very good pot barley, without any additional machinery. There is only one yearly market in the pariſh, when every houſe, hut, and ſhade, is converted into a dram-ſhop; it is held in the middle of Auguſt.

Romantic Scenery, Caſcades, &c.—This pariſh is remarkable for romantic ſcenery, and chiefly that part of it called *Glenalmon.* Near the Weſt end of the fore part of the pariſh, the river Barvie runs through a deep den, where it forms ſeveral ſmall caſcades. The den is clothed with natural wood, and at ſome places 100 feet deep. Near a mile North from the place of Monzie, upon the river Keltie, there is a remarkable den, with various caſcades. The uppermoſt caſcade, called *Spout-bay,* is in breadth at the top 5 feet; the river falls over a ſmooth ſloping rock, the height of which is 90 feet, and the breadth at the bottom 43 feet. The river then contracts into its former narrow channel, runs through the thick wooded den, 150 feet deep. Here there are ſome other water falls, 5 feet wide at top, and 10 feet perpendicular, with baſons cut by nature out of the ſolid rock, one of which is 12 feet diameter, and 9 feet deep. At the mouth of the den, the river ſeems to have made a path for itſelf in the ſolid rock, 6 feet in breadth at the top, and 10 feet in height; the baſon itſelf is 12 feet diameter. From this fall to the front of the rock is 24 feet; but the opening, out of which the river begins again to run, is only about 4 feet wide. All the way from Monzie manſion-houſe to Spout-Bay, along the banks of the river, there is a foot-path made and repaired by the family; at the top of which, on the ſide of the den, and in full view of Spout-bay, there is erected a hermitage, for the reception of the admiring viſitors of this caſcade. About a mile above the village of Monzie there is another beautiful caſcade, upon the river Shaggie; the breadth

of

of the river at the top is 18 feet, the height of the fall 55 feet, and the breadth at the bottom 43 feet. It falls over very rugged rocks. One would think the path had been made by the hand of art. Near the bridge of Buchandy, there is a caſcade 10 feet broad, and 16 feet high.

Artificial Mount, Large Trees, &c.—Oppoſite to the foot of the principal entry into the manſion-houſe of Monzie, there is an artificial mount, near 70 feet high, in ſhape a truncated cone, upon which ſtands a a Chineſe temple. This temple is hexagonal, and almoſt entirely open, except the pillars which ſupport the roof. It is 14 feet long, 12 broad, and 14 feet high. The roof terminates in a point, upon which there is a balcony with a bell, about 4 feet high. In the garden of Monzie there are 4 larch trees, ſaid to be the fineſt and largeſt in Britain. They are not yet 60 years old. One of them is 80 feet high; its circumference at mid-height is 7 feet, and its circumference at the ground 16 feet; its branches extend all around 30 feet on each ſide. The other two are about the ſame height, but the circumference of the one at the ground is 15 feet, and that of the other is only 9 feet; the fourth is 90 feet high, and 8 feet in circumference at the ground. They are all in perfect vigour, ſending forth freſh ſhoots every year. Beſides theſe, there are among the planting, and near the houſe, a good deal of ſpruce, ſilver fir, balm-of-Gilead fir, &c. 60 and 80 feet high, and not in the leaſt decaying.

Mineral Spring, Echo, Caves, Whirlwind, &c.—There is one ſpring in the pariſh whoſe waters were held in great eſteem, until about 20 years ago, when two trees which grew over it, fell, and the virtue of the well fell with them. In a particular part of Glenalmon, among the hills, there is an echo which

which repeats diſtinctly every word. There are many caves here, but the moſt remarkable one is at the back of *Glenturret*, which is ſufficient to hold 60 men under arms. It is ſituated in a rock, named *Eagle's Rock*, inacceſſible on all ſides, except one narrow path. It is ſaid to be the cave into which GARA fled, after burning FINGAL's houſe. Near this cave there is a high PINE TREE *, which is remarkable, becauſe there is not another tree at preſent to be found in all that part. This hill country is much expoſed to tempeſts, and eſpecially to the whirlwind. It unroofs the houſes, overturns the ſtacks, tears up the heath and broom, and even ſweeps large ſtones before it. A moſt remarkable thing in this wind is, a noiſe it makes, ſo like thunder that ſtrangers cannot but believe it is ſo. It makes this noiſe in a certain hollow part of the glen ſurrounded by rocks on all ſides.

Natural Phænomena.¶—There is a great curioſity, called *The-Kirk-of-the-Wood*, not far from the Eagle's Rock. It is compoſed of large ſtones, divided into ſeveral apartments, with arches and trances, and each ſtone reſting ſo on another, that one would imagine it were the work of art. Near New-

* Tradition ſays, if any perſon cut a branch from this tree *he dies*, and that *it lives* ! ! !

¶ In the year 1756, a *water ſpout* broke in the hills above Monzie; it took its courſe down the river Shaggie, and raiſed it 20 feet perpendicular at the bridge; it ſwept entirely away a bank near Monzie, which coſt 500l. Sterling, and it caſt out upon the ſides ſuch quantities of fiſh, that the inhabitants carried them home in baſkets; the river ſubſiding ſo quickly, that they were left behind. In the year 1758, during a heavy rain in the hills, the water collected on the top of the brae near Monzie, and carried down ſuch a quantity of the earth into the Shaggie, as left a den 200 feet long, above 100 feet broad, from edge to edge, and 70 feet deep. For ſeveral years paſt, ſome ſhocks of an *Earthquake* were felt here, and in the neighbouring pariſh; their direction was from E. to W.

New-town there is a ſtone, on which are the figures of people's feet, with thoſe of the hooves of horſes, cows, and ſheep.

Antiquities.—As the Romans and ancient Caledonians continued their conteſts long about the front of the Grampian hills, we find a vaſt number of camps, forts, &c. and ſimilar relics of antiquity. About 2 miles eaſt from the church, at the country called *Findochs*, there is a large camp. It is ſituated oppoſite to the only proper paſſage through the hills found in them, for about 40 miles: It ſtands on a high ground, defended by waters on two ſides, and a moſs with ſteep ground on the others. The trenches are ſtill entire, and in ſome places 6 feet deep. It is about 180 paces in length, and 80 paces in breadth, and was ſurrounded by a ſtrong earthen wall, part of which ſtill remains, and is near 12 feet thick. Thoſe who are connoiſſeurs in ſuch matters, ſay it could contain 12,000 men. Within the camp there is a large plain, called *Rathmore, i. e. fortification*, which, however, ſeems to be of a later date. Near this there are many ruins, burrows, cairns of ſtones, ſome of which have been opened, and were found to be graves. Near this camp ſtands a village called, in Gaelic, Fianteach, *i. e.* FINGAL's houſe ‡. Within two miles North from this, ſtands the high hill of *Dunmore*. On it there is a ſtrong fort, which had the complete command of the paſſage through the hills. This fort incloſes the ſummit of the hill; and is inacceſſible on

‡ Tradition ſays, FINGAL's houſe ſtood here until it was burnt by *Gara*. Comparing the names of places, and the names of the princes as mentioned in hiſtory, it is probable, this camp was occupied about the year 300. Tradition ſays, Fingal dwelt for ſome time in this country, and we know both his father and his ſon are buried here. When digging lately among the ruins, plates of lead, curious bead-ſtones, dog's-collars, &c. were found.

on all ſides but one. It is defended by a deep trench without the walls. It is 30 paces in breadth within the inner wall, and 180 paces around the fort. Each wall is 20 feet thick, and 20 feet diſtant from each other, and from the outer wall to the trench is 30 paces. This is ſaid to have been FINGAL's habitation, after GARA burned his houſe *. The walls are built with ſtone but no cement, and ſome of the ſtones would weigh 300 ſtones weight. About 2 miles Eaſt from Fiantiach, there is another fort, called *Lenè*. It is twice as large as the one above, exceedingly ſtrong, and appears to have been built by the ſame perſons: It is ſurrounded with two walls. The inner wall is 240 paces round, the diſtance between the walls is 20 feet, and each wall is 20 feet thick. On the contiguous muir there are many cairns, *tumuli*, and burrows, which are thought to be monuments of heroes, but even tradition is ſilent about them. One, however, is called *Cairn-Comhal* ‡, in memory of FINGAL's father. In the ſame moor there are alſo 2 cairns, 50 feet in circumference. On the top of a hill, on the other ſide of the paſſage through the hills, and oppoſite to Dunmore, is another cairn, where the ſtones ſeem to be a fallen arch; it was probably a ſmall fort, and is ſo near that of Dunmore, that perſons could converſe with each other acroſs the glen. There is a ſmall camp on the South ſide of the pariſh, near to Cultoquhey, called in Gaelic, *Combal cults i. e.* Comhal's battle ‡.

* Some large teeth were found lately, and a *quern*, *i. e.* a hand mill, which was made of the hill ſtone, and did not bear the mark of any tool.

† This Cairn was opened lately, and contained a large ſtone coffin, the ſtone covering the lid of the coffin, was 4 feet 10 inches long, 2½ feet broad, and 2 feet thick.

‡ Tradition ſays, that COMHAL fought here, but loſt the battle. Some urns with aſhes were dug up here lately. In the regiſter of St Andrew's we

are

we have every reaſon to believe, that ſome great men have been buried in this place, and we are certain, that the famous Caledonian bard, OSSIAN, lies here. His tomb is well known, and often viſited. It is a coffin of 4 ſtones ſet on edge, about 2 feet long, 2 feet deep, 1½ feet broad, and over it is laid a great ſtone, about 8 feet high, and 21 feet in circumference. General Wade's ſervant diſcovered it, when making the King's high way.

Character and Manners, &c.—The people of this pariſh may be ſaid to anſwer the general character of the Scotch; for they are ſober, honeſt, humane, induſtrious, and reſpectful to their ſuperiors. The have a reaſonable meaſure of the comforts and conveniences of life, are contented with their lot, attend moſt regularly upon public worſhip, and behave with a becoming decency in the houſe of God. Not one inſtance of ſuicide, or of any perſon belonging to this pariſh being judicially convicted of any crime, has occurred theſe 40 years. In general, they dreſs better than formerly. They meet together at times, and make merry. Their chief amuſement at public meetings is dancing; and, upon theſe occaſions, there is a pleaſing cheerfulneſs and innocence among them. They are not however entirely free of ſuperſtition. *Lucky* and *unlucky days* and *feet* are ſtill attended to, eſpecially about the end and beginning of the year. No perſon will be proclaimed for marriage in the end of one year, or even quarter of the year, and be married in the beginning of the next. The power of an *evil eye*, too, is ſtill believed, although

are told, that CONSTANTINE the ſon of CULLEN was killed by KENNETH, the ſon of MALCOLM I. at Rathmore, in the year 992. And it is probable he is burried in one of thoſe cairns. HOLLINSHED tells us, that king Culen was killed by EADHARD at Methven caſtle, almoſt in the middle of his way to Scone; and Methven ſignifies mid-way in the Gaelic, and it is ſituated betwixt Rathmore and Scone.

although the faith of the people in witchcraft is much enfeebled. The people have nothing remarkable in their ſize, ſtrength, or features. They are generally of the middle ſize, and of a duſky complexion. There are ſome, however, 6 feet in height.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The principal diſadvantage this pariſh labours under, is its great diſtance from fuel. The neareſt coal to Monzie is 20 miles diſtant. The common people burn turf, heath, peats, wood, ſhrubs, and broom. Laſt winter, coals were ſold here at 3d. a ſtone; and even in ſummer, they are 2d. the ſtone. Another diſadvantage is the want of lime; for although it can be got at no great diſtance, yet the expence of fuel for burning it, renders it uſeleſs. Marl is near us, but ſaid not to be very good; beſides it is extremely dear, and the farmers would all give the preference to lime. Great advantages, however, are expected from the improvement and extenſion of the roads. In particular, from that excellent one now opened between Perth and Crieff, and which is intended to be carried forward to Stirling. There are alſo ſome other roads in contemplation. Great honour is due to the public ſpirit and activity of thoſe Gentlemen, in this and the neighbouring pariſhes, for the attempts they are at preſent making to diſcover coal in this part of the country. We hope, by perſeverance, theſe attempts will at laſt be crowned with ſucceſs.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF DALGETY,

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE, COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr PETER PRIMROSE.

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh of Dalgety is ſituated in the county of Fife, and in the preſbytery of Dunfermline. It is bounded by the pariſh of Aberdour on the Eaſt and North, by Inverkeithing on the Weſt, and by a ſmall part of the pariſh of Dunfermline on the North Weſt: On the South, it is bounded by the Frith of Forth, along which it extends in a ſtraight line about three miles; but as the coaſt in this place is interſected by many bays, its circuitous extent is conſiderably more. It is of an irregular form, but approaches neareſt to the triangular, being about four miles long from South to North, but its breadth gradually diminiſhes towards the North, and in ſome places it ſcarcely exceeds half-a-mile.

Soil, Surface, and Produce.—The ſoil is various. In ſome places it conſiſts of a light loam, and is dry; but the greater part

part of the parish consists of a deep strong loam, mixed with clay, naturally wet and stiff, but productive in general of fertile crops. The ground, in most places, rises considerably above the level of the coast; but there are few hills in the parish, and these are neither high, nor much covered with rocks. The surface in some places is covered with heath, and a few little hills with furze: there are also some small mosses and swampy ground; but the space which these occupy is of so little extent, that there is not above a sixth part of the parish which is not arable. The principal crops raised in the parish are wheat, barley, oats, pease, and beans. Potatoes too are cultivated in considerable quantities, and, in some places, partly used for feeding cattle. Turnips are also raised for this purpose, and grow to a considerable size; but, on account of the wetness of the surface, and the injury which the land might sustain in winter, by being cut with horses and carts when they are carried off, they are not generally used. Tares are sometimes sown, and produce abundant crops: Flax is seldom raised but for private use. A great part of the parish consists of grass grounds, which have been laid down in good order, and, when let to graziers, yield considerable rents. From some inclosures, a proprietor has been known to draw 2l. 5s. per acre; but the average rent of the land in grass may be from 1l. 5s. to 1l. 10s. annually, per acre. A considerable number of black-cattle, and about 900 sheep, are usually grazed in the parish.

Prices of Grain and Provisions.—The price of wheat and barley is frequently regulated by the fiars of Mid Lothian. Some farmers get the highest fiars for their grain, and others in the Northern part of the parish, where the land is usually of an inferior quality, sell somewhat lower. Few oats are sold in the parish, and the price of oat meal is generally the same

ſame with that of the Edinburgh market. Though the number of inhabitants is not large in proportion to the extent of the pariſh, yet, on account of the great quantity of land in graſs, beſides what is allotted to the production of other crops, the oats raiſed in the pariſh are far from being ſufficient to ſupply the conſumption of meal. The average price of beef, mutton, and veal, is 4d. the pound, Dutch weight. The price of a hen is from 1s. to 1s. 3d. and chickens are ſold from 8d. to 10d. the pair. Butter is uſually at 9d. the pound Tron weight. Cheeſe varies according to its quality; but the ordinary kind is 3d. the pound. Eggs are ſold at 4d. and in the ſeaſon of ſcarcity, at 6d. the dozen. During theſe two laſt winters, herrings have been caught in great plenty upon this coaſt, and the fiſhermen are encouraged to bring very conſiderable quantities of them to St David's, a harbour in the pariſh, both for the purpoſe of curing, and of ſupplying the people in the neighbourhood. They prove a very beneficial article of food to this part of the country, and are ſold at an eaſy rate, being frequently at 6d. the hundred of ſix ſcore. It is thought by many, that ſhoals of herrings have, for a long time paſt, come into this Frith in winter, without being generally diſcovered or looked after; whether they were in ſuch great quantities as they have been theſe two years, it is impoſſible to aſcertain: but a fiſherman in the neighbourhood, has, for many years, caught ſome during the ſpring ſeaſon, in a net little accommodated for the purpoſe, from the wideneſs of its interſtices, and which he had ſpread out near the coaſt, where there were runs of freſh water, in order to catch ſalmon trouts. It is therefore much to be wiſhed, that fiſhermen would be diligent in ſearching the Frith occaſionally every winter, to diſcover if there are any herrings in it, and upon what part of the coaſt they principally lie, that they may loſe no opportunity of being

ing employed in a fiſhery at once ſo profitable to themſelves, and ſo beneficial to the community. Perhaps the offer of a ſtanding premium or bounty to the crews of the firſt boats, who ſhall, after a particular ſeaſon every year, carry a certain quantity caught in the Frith to the Edinburgh market, might prove an uſeful incentive to their diligence in this reſpect.

Number of Proprietors, Tenants, Amount of Rent, &c—There are three proprietors who poſſeſs all the land in the pariſh, and have houſes in it, where ſome of them uſually, and others of them occaſionally, reſide, viz. the Earl of Moray at Donibriſtle, Sir John Henderſon at Fordel, and Dr Robert Moubray at Cockairny. The two firſt of theſe retain in their own hands a conſiderable part of their eſtates in the pariſh, and they have of late highly improved their grounds, and adorned them with thriving plantations. The farm Cockairny is the largeſt that is let in the pariſh; and there are eleven others of ſmaller extent. The are about 190 inhabited houſes in the pariſh, of which only 12 are feus, the reſt belonging to the proprietors; and by far the greateſt number to Sir John Henderſon, for the accommodation of the people employed in working his coal. As a great part of the land in the pariſh is not at preſent let, the real rent cannot be aſcertained; but its annual value, it is ſuppoſed, would amount to 2,000l. Streling, or upwards. The valued rent, as ſtated in the ceſs-roll, amounts, according to the old valuation, to 5394l. Scots.

Population.—In 1755 the numbers were rated at 761. By an enumeration lately made, there were 869 perſons in this pariſh, of whom there were

Under

Under 10 years of age	202
Between 10 and 20	163
Above 20 unmarried	180
Married perſons	276
Widowers or widows	48
	869
Number of ſouls in 1755	761
Increaſe	108

There are no particular inſtances of longevity in the pariſh at preſent. A few of the oldeſt inhabitants may be about 80 years of age, and ſome have lately died, who were ſuppoſed to be upwards of 90. In the year 1770, James Spital Eſq; of Leuchart died in this pariſh, reported by ſome to have arrived at the age of 102: he had been in the Scotch Parliament; and, for a conſiderable time before his death, was ſuppoſed to be the only ſurviving member.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—In the lower part of the pariſh, which is upon the coaſt, it is conſiderably warmer and milder than in the upper, and the difference is very perceptible when the wind blows from any northern direction; but during the Eaſterly winds, which particularly prevail in the ſpring ſeaſon, it is ſharp and cold, almoſt over the whole pariſh. The air however is generally dry, and, during the continuance of the Eaſt wind, is uſually more free from fogs or damp than the ſhore on the oppoſite ſide. There are no diſeaſes that can be ſaid to be peculiar to the inhabitants, or that prevail here more than in the neighbouring pariſhes. I have obſerved indeed a few more inſtances of rheumatiſm, and other complaints ariſing from cold, among the colliers, than among the other pariſhioners, but theſe are to be attributed, not ſo much to the climate, as to the damp ſituations in which they have ſome times to work. An epidemical diſtemper

temper, which made its firſt appearance in the village of Aberdour in ſummer 1790, and created no ſmall alarm, got into this pariſh in the autumn, and two or three people died of it; but as the weather turned colder, it became leſs fatal and infectious, and in the winter it altogether abated. The ſmall-pox ſometimes makes great ravages; and it is to be lamented, that the prejudices againſt inoculation are ſo ſtrong among the generality of people in this part of the country, that no perſuaſion can remove them; nor can the evident inſtances of its ſalutary effects, often exhibited by the medical gentlemen in this quarter, reconcile them to the practice, even when the diſeaſe is gathering ground, and proving very fatal in the natural way.

Language and Etmology of Names.—The language commonly ſpoken in the pariſh is the Old Scotch dialect, and there ſeem to be no peculiar words or phraſes which are not in general uſe throughout moſt parts of the kingdom. The words are pronounced with a broad accent; and I have often heard in this part of the country a ſound given to the diphthong oi, which is not, I believe, ſo uſual in other places: it is frequently pronounced as if it conſiſted of the letters ou, as for *boul* boil, *pount* for point, *vouce* for voice, &c. Many of the names of places are derived from the Engliſh, and are expreſſive of their particular or relative ſituations, as Hilland, Seafield, Bankhead, Broomſide, Boghead, Croſsgate, &c. Others are probably derived from the Gaelic, and denote greater antiquity in regard to their names, as Donibriſtle, Fordel, Cockairny, Lethem, &c.

Character of the People.—The people are in general ſober and induſtrious; and, with a few exceptions, regular in attending, and paying reſpect to the public inſtitutions of religion.

ligion. Though, in regard to the doctrines of Chriſtianity, many of them, as in other places, are yet perhaps too fond of hearing ſpeculative propoſitions, and abſtract reaſoning; they alſo liſten with attention to diſcourſes which repreſent religion as a moral ſcience, whoſe doctrines and precepts are all calculated for the improvement of the character. It is pleaſing to obſerve that the colliers, who compoſe a conſiderable part of the inhabitants of the pariſh, and who, in former times, were leſs enlightened and civilized, have, for a long while, been making progreſs in religious knowledge and moral improvement; and ſo attentive are they to give education to their children, a duty formerly among this claſs of people too much neglected, that for many years they have mantained a teacher by ſubſcription, as they are at a great diſtance from the parochial ſchool.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—There is no church but the eſtabliſhed one in the pariſh. The Seceders who reſide in it are moſtly Burghers, and attend a meeting-houſe in Inverkeithing. The church is an old building, very much out of repair, and not well adapted, either in reſpect of conſtruction or ſituation, as a place of worſhip for the pariſh; the ſituation is peculiarly inconvenient, being upon the coaſt, and the moſt populous part of the pariſh almoſt at the other extremity. The manſe is about a quarter of a mile Weſt from the church: it is alſo an old houſe, but there is a proſpect that another one will ſoon be built. The following is a liſt of the miniſters of this pariſh, as far back as the Seſſion records give information. Mr Andrew Donaldſon was ſettled in 1644. Upon the introduction of Epiſcopacy into this country, he was obliged to retire, and Mr John Corſar was ſettled in 1669; Mr John Lumſdaine in 1680, and Mr George Gray in 1687. After the Revolution, Mr Donaldſon, though

at

at an advanced age, was called to reſume his paſtoral charge, and continued to officiate as miniſter here till the time of his death. It is reported, that during the time he was laid aſide, which might be about twenty years, he lived in a building on the Weſt end of the church, which is now partly uſed as a ſeſſion room, ſupported by preſents from the pariſhioners, and undiſturbed by the above mentioned Epiſcopal clergymen, which does credit to the ſteady attachment of the former, and to the liberality and forbearing ſpirit of the latter, in thoſe times of intolerance and perſecution. Mr Archibald Campbell was ſettled in 1696; Mr William Henderſon in 1717; Mr James Bathgate in 1738; Mr John Hoyes in 1778; and, upon his tranſlation to another pariſh, the preſent incumbent was ſettled in 1787. The ſtipend, by a decreet granted in the year 1650, conſiſted of 67 bolls, 2 firlots, 3 pecks, and 1 lippie of grain, and 37l. 6s. $5\frac{4}{12}$d. Sterling. By an augmentation lately obtained, the ſtipend is now raiſed to 115 bolls, 2 firlots, 3 pecks, and 1 lippie of grain, and 42l. 6s. $5\frac{4}{12}$d. Sterling. The glebe conſiſts of about 12 acres. The Earl of Moray is patron. There are two ſchools in the pariſh, one eſtabliſhed and provided with a ſalary, the other, as formerly obſerved, maintained by ſubſcription. With reſpect to the parochial ſchool, the ſalary, as in moſt other places, is too ſmall, being ſomewhat below 7l. There is indeed a proſpect of its being a little increaſed here, from a voluntary offer lately made; but there is much need of a general increaſe, not only in humanity, and it may be ſaid juſtice to ſuch as are engaged in the practice of teaching, but for the ſake of thoſe who are to be benefited by their inſtructions. It muſt be admitted, that the deſire of acquiring independence and fame operates chiefly on the minds of men in regard to the choice of their purſuits in life; and in the improved and improving ſtate of things in this country,

where ſo many paths lie open to theſe by following the various arts, it is eaſy to foreſee, that, while the proviſion allotted to ſuch an uſeful claſs of men as ſchool-maſters, is in general ſo ſmall, and inadequate to the purpoſes of a decent maintainance, few perſons of liberal education, and poſſeſſed of that ſpirit which a mind enlarged with knowledge has a tendency to inſpire, will turn their views to a profeſſion that may reduce them to ſtraits, and of courſe ſink them into contempt. The difficulty of obtaining proper teachers in country ſchools begins already to be felt; and it is much to be feared that learning will ſoon come to decline, if encouragement be not given to fit perſons to diffuſe and promote its growth. Many who at preſent ſubmit to this laborious taſk, cannot earn more than a daily labourer; and muſt not the riſing generation and poſterity ſuffer in an education conducted by thoſe, who may hereafter turn their thoughts to ſuch an ungainful profeſſion? Ignorance, among the bulk of the people, would certainly be attended with the moſt pernicious effects, and it is to be hoped that all who are intereſted in the honour and welfare of their country, will have diſcernment to foreſee, and patriotiſm to guard againſt, ſuch an evil before it comes to any alarming height: and what can contribute more ſucceſsfully to this beneficial purpoſe, than to encourage the diffuſion of knowledge by competent rewards?

State of the Poor.—There have been uſually, of late, 10 or 12 perſons upon the poors roll, who receive aid from the weekly collections, and from the intereſt of 130l. ariſing from legacies appropriated for their ſupport. In the year 1783, the heritors and ſeſſion bought 60 bolls of oatmeal, part of which was given to families in indigent circumſtances, and the reſt ſold to others that were leſs needy, at reduced

duced prices, which contributed much to the relief of the parish, during the scarcity which then prevailed.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The parish, as was before observed, extends along the Forth about three miles; and the banks are in many places so beautifully skirted with trees, and diversified with such a variety of prospects, both of nature and art, as present many scenes truly picturesque and sublime. There is also a small loch at Otterston, about a mile from the coast, which for its situation is universally admired; on its banks stand three gentlemen's houses, two of which are still inhabited; and it is so surrounded with rising ground and trees, as to furnish a pleasing miniature scene. There are few antiquities in the parish, and concerning those which are, such as the remains of what is supposed to have been a camp, a Druidical temple, and one of those marks commonly called a *Standing Stone*, there is no consistent tradition, nor certain account. The house of Donibristle was formerly the residence of the Abbot of St Combe, but it has since been greatly enlarged and improved. Opposite to the eastern extremity of the parish, and within a mile of the shore, is the island of St Combe, the description of which, and of the monastery upon it, have been given in the Statistical Account of the parish of Aberdour. The Earl of Dunfermline's seat formerly stood at a little distance from the church of Dalgety, but little of it now remains. The church itself is a very ancient building. The exact period of its erection cannot be ascertained; but there are documents which show that a grant of the ground on which it stands, was made to the Abbot of St Combe, as far back as the 14th century. Additions however have been made to it, which bear the marks of a later date.

Trade.

Trade.—There is no particular branch of trade in the pariſh, except what ariſes from the coal and ſalt works, carried on to a conſiderable extent on the property of Sir John Henderſon. The various branches of theſe works afford maintenance to ſeveral hundred people of one deſcription or other. The greateſt part of the coal and ſalt is exported from St Davids, a ſpacious harbour ſituated at the Weſtern extremity of the pariſh in Inverkeithing bay, where veſſels of any burthen, not exceeding 500 or 600 tons, can load in ſafety. The diſtance from the pits to the ſhore is near 4 miles, along which the coals are carried in waggons that contain 48 cwt. It is well aſcertained, that this coal has been known and wrought for upwards of 200 years, and a conſiderable field of it ſtill remains. The ſurrounding diſtrict, lying in the pariſhes of Dunfermline and Aberdour, contains alſo many ſeams of coal of an excellent quality, ſufficient it is thought, to ſupply the uſual demand for centuries to come.

NUMBER

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF BALDERNOCK.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNBARTON, COUNTY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES COOPER, *Miniſter.*

Name.

IN the beginning of the reign of Alexander the II. the lands of Cartonbenach were conveyed to Maurice Galbraith by charter from Malduin Earl of Lennox. Soon after, in the year 1238, we find the ſame barony granted by a new charter, under the name of *Bathernock*, to Arthur ſon of Maurice Galbraith, with power to ſeize and condemn malefactors, on condition that the convicts ſhould be hanged on the Earl's gallows. From the Galbraiths of Bathernock, chiefs of the name, deſcended the Galbraiths of Culcruich, Greenock, Killearn, and Balgair, which eſtates have all, except the laſt, paſſed, by females, long ago into families of other names. The family of Bathernock ended alſo in an heireſs, and the eſtate, about the beginning of the 14th century, paſſed by marriage to David, ſon of Lord Hamilton, and

and anceſtor of the preſent John Hamilton, Eſq; of Bardowie. From that time, the proprietor of the barony appears to have taken the title of Bardowie; and the title of Bathernock (now written Baldernock,) dropped by the family, was probably revived and perpetuated by beſtowing it on the pariſh, when it came to be erected. But when that erection took place, or when the name Bathernock came to be written Baldernock, as at preſent, is uncertain. If a conjecture may be hazarded with reſpect to the name, we ſhould rather ſuppoſe, that Baldernock was not a new name, but the original one revived, of which Bathernock was a corruption; and that Baldernock is alſo a corruption of Baldruinich, (*i. e.* Druidſtown) it being highly probable, that this was a Druidical place of worſhip, as will appear from a remarkable monument of Druidiſm to be mentioned afterwards.

Situation and Surface.—It it is ſituated within the county Stirling, in the presbytery of Dunbarton, and ſynod of Glaſ- and Ayr. The ſurface is various. On the South, where it is bounded by the river Kelvin, there are ſix or ſeven hundred acres of rich flat land. The inundations of this river frequently blaſted the hopes of the husbandman, by dammaging, or ſweeping away his luxuriant crops. To prevent ſuch diſaſters, the proprietors, about 16 or 18 years ago, united in raiſing a bank upon the brink of the river: but there are ſeaſons ſtill, when it breaks over, or burſts through its barriers, to reſume for a little its former deſolating ſway. From South to North there is a gradual aſcent, pleaſantly diverſified by round ſwelling hills. The flat ground, before mentioned, is a rich loam; the riſing grounds towards the Eaſt, are a clayey ſoil over till; and thoſe towards the Weſt, a light ſharp ſoil over whin rock. On the North ſide there is ſome mooriſh ground, but the greater part of the pariſh is arable.

arable. Towards the South West lyes Bardowie Loch, covering about 70 acres. In it are plenty of pike and perch, of a good size and quality. The banks are pleasant, upon which is situated the house of Bardowie, within a few paces of the lake.

Climate and Diseases.—The air, on the high grounds especially, is extremely salubrious, and the inhabitants healthy. There are no diseases uncommon, or peculiar to the place, nor any, for a long time past, that could be called epidemical, unless we should rank slow fevers under this class. They make their appearance sometimes in the spring, but more frequently in the autumn, and spread through whole families, and from family to family. This is observed to happen chiefly among those whose houses are small, dirty, and not properly ventilated. It is to be regretted that the absurd, and not altogether innocent practice, of exposing themselves and their families, by unnecessary visits to those who have been seized with this infectious disease, but too much prevails. And it is also a subject of just regret, that the prejudice against innoculation of the small-pox still keeps hold of the minds of many in this part of the conntry. The poor children are thereby exposed to the danger of that disease in what they call the natural way; but the innoculation is equally well entitled to be called the natural way. The one way differs from the other in this only, that, by the innoculation, the infection is, by the tender and prudent care of the parents, communicated in that way which, by long experience, has been found most safe and easy; whereas, without the inoculation, the infection is, by careless and superstitious parents, left to be communicated from their own cloaths after visiting children under the disease, or by accidental intercourse of their children with persons who have the infection about their

cloaths, in that way which experience ſhows to be moſt ſevere and fatal.

Population, &c.—In the month of April 1794, the number of families was 137, of perſons 620, of whom there are,

Under 10 years of age	136
Between 10 and 20	133
—— 20 and 50	242
—— 50 and 70	98
—— 70 and 85	11
Total	620

There are at preſent in this pariſh no inſtances of remarkable longevity.

Bachelors from 20 to 40	45
—— —— 40 to 60	7
—— —— above 60	2
Widowers from 20 to 60	6
—— —— Upwards of 60	10
Yearly average of baptiſms	18
—— —— — Marriages	6

Occupations.—The greater part of the inhabitants of this pariſh devote their time to that moſt innocent and moſt uſeful of ſecular employments, the cultivation of the earth. There are 45 farmers, including 12 feuars, who cultivate their own grounds; 36 labourers, 43 male ſervants, all labourers, 38 female ſervants, almoſt all labourers, 10 weavers of houſehold cloth, 1 taylor, 3 ſhoe-makers, 3 maſons, 3 carpenters, 2 millers, 2 gardeners, 2 ſmiths, 1 engraver, 1 flax-dreſſer, 4 miners, and one man who exerciſes the ſeveral occupations of weaver, conſtable, phyſician, ſurgeon, apothecary, and man-midwife.

Character.—The people are, in general, remarkable for a ſober and regular deportment; an advantage, in a great meaſure,

meaſure, to be aſcribed to their occupation, and to want of manufactures, whoſe boaſted benefits make but a poor compenſation for their baneful influence on the morals of the people.

Rent of the Pariſh.—The valuation of the pariſh is 1744l. Scots. It is not eaſy to aſcertain the real rent, becauſe a number of the proprietors cultivate their own ground; but it is ſuppoſed that it will not be over-rated at 3000l. Sterling. Arable land is rented from 10s. to 2l. per acre: and beſides their rent to the landlord, the tenants are generally bound by their tacks to pay all the public burdens upon the lands they poſſeſs. Moſt of their farms are alſo thirled to a particular mill, and pay, ſome of them ſo high as the 16th or 17th part of all the grain which they have occaſion to grind; a diſcouragement to induſtry now altogether unneceſſary, and which every landholder, who wiſhes to advance the value of his property, by encouraging the induſtry of his tenants, ought if poſſible to remove.

Mode of Cultivation.—The farms are in general ſmall, incloſed and ſubdivided; and the preſent race of farmers are ſuppoſed to ſurpaſs their fathers in ſkill and induſtry. Clearing the ground of ſtones, draining, levelling the inequalities of the ſurface, ſtraightening the ridges, laying on lime, and guarding againſt the common miſtake of overcropping, may be eſteemed the chief improvements. The Scotch plough, drawn by 3, and ſometimes by 4 horſes, is that in moſt common uſe. Oats and barley are the kinds of grain chiefly cultivated. The plough goes little before the beginning of March; and the farmers ſeem not anxious to have the ſowing of oats finiſhed before the end of April, and the barley before the 20th of May. After liming their ground, they generally take two

crops of oats, and one of barley. With the barley, rye-graſs and clover are ſown, of which hay is made in the enſuing ſummer, and ſometimes for two ſummers. They afterwards paſture for two or more years, as they judge requiſite to give the ground a ſufficient reſt, before the ſame rotation be repeated. In the flat lands, wheat has been tried with ſucceſs, and has been found to ſuffer leſs damage than other crops, by the floods, from which theſe grounds are, notwithſtanding the embankment, not yet effectually ſecured. Potatoes are raiſed ſufficient for home conſumpt, and ſome to ſpare for the Glaſgow market, where they generally draw from 8d. to 1s. per water peck. From the few trials that have been made, there is much encouragement for the cultivation of turnip. The black cattle are moſtly ſmall, and the farmers not very attentive to improve the breed of their milk cows.

Roads.—The multiplicity of roads renders it impoſſible, by the converſion of the ſtatute labour, to put them all in a proper ſtate of repair. It deſerves therefore the attention of both maſters and tenants, how far the improvement of the country, and their own private intereſt, might be promoted, by ſhutting up ſome of the roads that are of leaſt public utility, and by making an extraordinary exertion for a year or two, to put the reſt once in good repair, after which the road-money would be ſufficient to keep them ſo. A good turnpike road has lately been made, paſſing through the ſkirts of this pariſh, from the thriving and now populous village of Balfrone to Glaſgow. It is thought that, by directing it nearer the centre of this pariſh, a ſaving of a mile and a half at leaſt might have been made in a diſtance of nine miles.

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—A good ploughman receives, beſides his board, from 5l. to 7l. per half year, and a

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ſervant woman from 35 to 50 ſhillings. The common wages of a labourer are 14d. per day; and when they work at piece work, they generally earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day. They are better cloathed and lodged, and in every reſpect live more comfortably than thoſe of the ſame rank, half a century ago. Old people remember that, in their early years, there was not a cow killed for beef by any one in the pariſh, excepting in gentlemen's families, and by one or two more; but now there are few families that cannot attain to half a cow at leaſt. The price of all kinds of proviſions is nearly the ſame with that of the Glaſgow markets.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—There are 110 families belonging to the Eſtabliſhed church, 11 to the Relief, 10 to the Burghers, 2 to the Antiburghers, 3 to the Cameronians, and 1 to the Bereans.

The preſent incumbent was admitted in 1783. His predeceſſors, ſince the Revolution 1688, were Meſſrs Wallace, Colquhoun, Garrick, and Taylor. The King is patron of the pariſh. The living conſiſts of 63 bolls of oat-meal, 33l. in money, a manſe, and a glebe of 10 acres, whereof 7 are arable. The church has been built at different times. The laſt enlargement was probably made before the beginning of this century, with a view to accomodate the inhabitants of the lands annexed by decreet 1649. The manſe was built about 50 years ago, and has undergone ſeveral repairs.

State of the Poor.—The average number of poor in this pariſh is about ſix. They are ſupported, according to their exigencies, in their own houſes, from the weekly collections at the church door, and from the intereſt of a capital of 420l. which has accumulated by the donations of charitable perſons, and from the ſurplus of the weekly collections. None of the poor of this

this pariſh are diſpoſed to beg, either in this or neighbouring pariſhes; but much is given away by the inhabitants in alms to beggars which ſwarm from other places, eſpecially from manufacturing towns and villages.

Minerals and Fuel.—This pariſh abounds in coal and lime-ſtone. The coal reſembles that of Newcaſtle, caking together, and making a ſtrong fire, when properly put on, and allowed to reſt three or four hours before it be ſtirred. It is generally found in a ſtratum of from 3 to 4½ feet thick, between two ſtrata of lime-ſtones. The upper ſtratum of lime-ſtone is called the *blue lime*, and the lower the *white lime*, which laſt has generally been eſteemed of an inferior quality to the blue. Theſe uſeful minerals, in places where there is no great thickneſs of ſtrata above them, are come at by removing the ſuperincumbent ſoil: but where they lie deep, the coal is wrought firſt by miners, and afterwards the upper or blue lime is ſeparated from the roof by wedges or gunpowder. The coals are ſold at the pit for 3d. per hutch, five of which may be drawn in a cart, by an ordinary horſe, and ſix by an able bodied horſe. The only coal in the pariſh wrought for fuel, is the property of Robert Dunmore, Eſq; of Ballindalloch, whoſe exertions for the improvement of his own eſtate, and of the country in general, cannot be mentioned with too much praiſe. He works the lime alſo to a very conſiderable extent. Beſides his, there are three other limeworks going in the pariſh, but upon a ſmaller ſcale; and there is lime-ſtone, more or leſs, through almoſt all the high grounds. In it are found petrified ſhells of a variety of kinds, ſtimulating the conjectures of naturaliſts concerning the revolutions of this globe. There is abundance of freeſtone of a good quality for building, and a little iron-ſtone; but, at the place where it hath been obſerved, the ſtratum is ſo thin

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as not to be worth working. A ſmall rivulet in the Eaſt end of the pariſh makes a very plentiful depoſition of ochre, which, if proper means were uſed to collect it, might turn to ſome account. Peats can eaſily be procured for fuel, but few of them are uſed, the coals being found leſs coſtly. A conſiderable quantity of them was formerly required by the farmers for kiln-drying their victual; but by the introduction of kilns with brick heads, they have become leſs neceſſary, coals anſwering the purpoſe equally well.

Antiquities.—Upon the high ground, in a commanding ſituation, at the North Weſt corner of the pariſh, ſtands an old ruinous tower, being all that now remains of the manſion houſe of the Galbraiths of Bathernock, which appears to have been a large building ſurrounded with a ditch. Its antiquity muſt be very conſiderable, but how great, even tradition does not venture to determine. Not far from thence, to the eaſtward, are ſeveral of thoſe large looſe heaps of ſtones called Cairns, ſome of them oblong, and others of a circular ſhape. One of the circular ones, which has not yet been broken up, is about 80 yards in circumference. From two that have been broken up, it appears that they are compoſed of looſe ſtones careleſsly thrown together; but at the bottom are large flags placed on edge, in two parallel rows, at the diſtance of between 3 or 4 feet, lidded over with flags laid acroſs, the cavity thus formed is divided by partitions into cells of 6 or 7 feet long. In one of the long cairns lately broken up, were found ſeveral fragments of a large coarſely fabricated urn, and ſome pieces of human bones. Tradition ſays, that in this place, called Craigmadden moor, a battle was fought with the Danes, in which one of their princes was ſlain. The farm in which theſe cairns are, is named Blochairn, which may be a corruption of Balcairn, *i. e.* the town of

of the cairns. But the moſt curious remain of antiquity in this pariſh, is a ſtructure called the *Auld wife's lift*. It is ſituated near a mile North from the church, on very high ground, in a little flat of about 100 paces diameter, ſurrounded by an aſcent of a few yards in height, in the form of an amphitheatre. It conſiſts of three ſtones only, two of which, of a priſmatic ſhape, are laid along cloſe by each other upon the earth; and the third, which was once probably a regular paralellopiped, and ſtill, notwithſtanding the depredations of time, approaches that figure, is laid above the other two. The uppermoſt ſtone is 18 feet long, 11 broad, and 6 deep, placed nearly horizontally with a ſmall dip to the North. Its two ſupporters are about the ſame ſize. It can hardly be matter of doubt, that this is one of thoſe rude ſtructures erected by the Druids in their ſacred groves. Its ſituation, in a very ſequeſtered ſpot, on an eminence, ſurrounded by a grove of oaks, ſtumps of which trees are ſtill viſible, correſponds exactly to every deſcription we have of theſe places of worſhip. The figure of the ſtones themſelves, and their poſition, bear a ſtrong reſemblance to others which antiquarians have not heſitated to pronounce monuments of Druidiſm. The name by which they are called ſeems no ſmall confirmation of the truth of this opinion. A Druidical ſtone in Ireland, mentioned by Cambden, is called the *lifted* ſtone; and there are ſome in Poitiers in France, known by the name of Pierres levées. But beſides that the ſtones under conſideration have the name of lift, which appears to be the general appellation of ſuch Druidical ſtones, the ſpecific part of their name, viz. Auld wives, is eaſily accounted for, on the ſame ſuppoſition. Upon the authority of Tacitus and Mela, we know that female Druids, generally pretty far advanced in years, lived together in ſiſterhoods, in ſequeſtered ſpots, devoting their time to the offices of the Druidical worſhip.

Theſe

Theſe were by the people held in high eſteem, and called *Senæ*, or *venerable women*, words nearly ſynonymous to the Scots word *Auld wives*. Hence we are induced to conclude, that this is one of thoſe lifted ſtones, Pierres levées; and that it is called the Auldwive's lift, becauſe it was the lifted ſtone where the Senæ, or ſiſterhood of venerable female Druids reſiding here, paid their devotions. Upon the ſuppoſition, alſo, that this was a ſeat of the Druid worſhip, we have ſuggeſted to us a very probable etymology of the name of the pariſh. *Bal*, in the Gaelic language ſignifies *town*, and *Druinich*, of or belonging to the Druids. The preſent name, Baldernock, is not a greater corruption of Baldruinich, *i. e.* Druidſtown, than might be expected in the lapſe of eighteen hundred years.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF LONGSIDE.

DISTRICT OF BUCHAN, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF DEER, AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM GREIG, *Miniſter.*

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh of *Longſide* is ſituated in that diſtrict of Aberdeen-ſhire called *Buchan.* It is an irregular ſquare, of about 5 Engliſh miles, and is bounded, on the North, by the pariſhes of Old Deer and Lonmay; on the Eaſt, by thoſe of St. Fergus and Peterhead; on the South by Cruden; and on the Weſt by Old Deer. It is, like Buchan in general, very level; there being no hill of any conſequence in the pariſh. As a proof of this, it may be mentioned, that the Ugie, which divides it in the direction of W. and E. frequently overflows the adjoining ground to a very conſiderable extent, from almoſt one ſide of the pariſh to the other; and, in the hands of our neighbours in the Netherlands, would be embanked like the Maeſe or the Rhine. This has ſuggeſted

ſuggeſted the idea of a canal along its banks, from its mouth near Peterhead, to the village of Old Deer; a diſtance of about 10 miles. The plan might be executed at a very inconſiderable expence; and would contribute much to the improvement of a very valuable diſtrict. It is, in general, a light ſoil, eaſily improved, and lying at the diſtance of only from 4 to 9 miles from Peterhead, enjoys almoſt every advantage for the exportation of its produce, and the importation of lime, coals, and other neceſſary articles.

The preſent ſtate of the pariſh, as well as its ſuſceptibility of farther improvement, may be inferred from the following particulars:

Population.—It contains, according to a very accurate liſt, taken by the writer of the preſent article, in the end of the year 1790 and beginning of 1791, 1792 inhabitants*.

Of theſe 817 are males, and 975 are females.

Under	10	years of age there are		270
From	10	to	20	334
From	20	to	50	743
From	50	to	70	323
From	70	to	100	122
				1792

They are divided into 473 families; which is not quite 4 to a family. Of theſe families, about 100 are employed in *farming*; 60, as *weavers*; 100 as *ſpinners of flax, and wool-combers*, &c, from 40 to 50, as *day-labourers*. Nearly 40 are poor families, occaſionally ſupplied from the public funds of

* By Dr Webſter's Report in 1755, I find that the number of inhabitants was 1979, or nearly 200 more than the above. As no ſatisfactory reaſon can be aſſigned for this diminution, from the hiſtory of the pariſh, I am inclined to think that the account ſent to the Doctor muſt have been inaccurate.

the pariſh. The remainder are maſons, taylors, &c. &c. Almoſt all have a few acres of ground, which they cultivate, at the ſame time that they purſue their other occupations. From this circumſtance, it may be inferred, that the different branches of labour above enumerated are ſtill in an unimproved ſtate. Some approaches, however, towards a regular diviſion and ſimplification of labour have been made of late; particularly at *Nether Kinmundy*; which will be mentioned afterwards.

From an inſpection of the regiſter of births, marriages, and deaths, for 6 years, from the year 1783, it appears that the average of baptiſms, during that period, is 29; that the male births are to the female as 4 to 3; that the average of pariſhioners married in the above period, is only 21; that the average of burials is 20; that the whole number of interments, including perſons brought from neighbouring pariſhes, is 208; whoſe ages amount to 9444 years; and that of conſequence the average of an age is ſomewhat more than 45.

Agriculture.—When I ſay that 100 families and upwards are employed in farming, or that there are 100 farms in the pariſh, it will readily be inferred that many of theſe farms muſt be ſmall: And when this is the caſe, it is impoſſible that lands can be improved to any conſiderable extent. Many of them are what are called crofts; which do not admit of the tenants having a plough. Two, or three, and ſometimes four, are obliged to join for this purpoſe: which is, in other words, ſaying, that the work is ill-performed, and at a great expence of time and labour. No ſimplification of the different branches of agriculture can be accompliſhed in a very ſmall ſcale. And yet, when this is not done,—when one man muſt do 8 or 10 different ſorts of work, little knowledge

or

or dexterity can be expected on his part, and little profit on the part of the employer. The number of acres in the pariſh amount to about 12,000, (rented for little more than 2000l. Sterling) of which above 7000 are at preſent in a ſtate of cultivation; 1800 are moſs, (a conſiderable part of it very deep) only 257 are planted; and the remainder is uncultivated. Though there is but a ſmall proportion which is not ſuſceptible of cultivation, yet, owing to the improper modes of agriculture adopted, perhaps 3000 bolls of oatmeal and bear are all that are exported annually; and the whole produce not much above 7000 bolls. Suppoſing the attention of farmers and proprietors confined to the 7000 acres above-mentioned, and no more than 3500 to be under a grain crop; from 15,000 to 20,000 bolls, at leaſt, might be reaſonably expected under a judicious plan of management. A perſon intereſted in the welfare of the country muſt be hurt, when he remarks the ſtate of our corn farming; fields ploughed, from which ſcarcely twice the ſeed can be expected, and ſpecies of grain ſometimes growing, which require two bolls to produce one of meal. Nor will he be leſs hurt, when he remarks the neceſſary conſequences of this management with regard to hay and paſture; extenſive ranges of country, where theſe ought to be found in great abundance, yielding a ſcanty ſubſiſtence to a few ſheep.

The pariſh is divided among ſix heritors. Nearly the half belongs to one of them †. And by granting no leaſes for many years paſt, he has at preſent much in his power, with regard to new-modelling his farms, and puting them upon a proper footing. With this view, he has paid particular attention to the different modes of farming, both in England and in the South of Scotland. But to introduce ſo complete a change as either of theſe modes, all at once, (if at all practicable)

† Mr Ferguson of Pitſour, Member of Parliament for the County.

ticable) is attended with great difficulties: and gradual reformation is perhaps here, as well as in moſt other departments of human labour, the preferable plan.

From the obſervations already made, it is evident that we ſtand much in need of improvement. If the ſmall farms could be united, and many of the preſent poſſeſſors of them converted into day-labourers, under tenants who could afford them conſtant employment; and if a few tenants from the Southern counties, of ſubſtance and knowledge, were encouraged to ſettle, as patterns to our native tenants; both claſſes would be benefited, and live infinitely better than theſe do at preſent. Proprietors ought at leaſt to have this in view, if they wiſh to ſee their eſtates improved, or the tenants on them comfortable. It admits of proof, notwithſtanding the complaints which we frequently hear of the difficulty of finding ſervants, and of the unjuſt preference which is given to manufactures, that there are inhabitants ſufficient in the country for the purpoſes of its improvement, if a certain indolence and want of ſpring (which is one of the characteriſtic features in the lower ranks in this part of the kingdom) could, by proper motives and encouragements, be removed: And this depends on landlords, and on the choice which they make of tenants.

Beſides the 3000 bolls of grain already mentioned, about 300 black cattle are exported annually; and butter, cheeſe, and eggs, to the amount of about 1000l. Sterling. The prices of the laſt mentioned articles are from 6d. to 8d. for 20 ounces of butter; from 3s. to 4s. for the ſtone of cheeſe; and from 2d. to 6d. for the dozen of eggs.

Manufactures.—This branch of induſtry has made very conſiderable progreſs in the pariſh within theſe few years. Beſides the ſpinning of flax to a very conſiderable amount for the

the thread-manufactures in Peterhead, a manufacture of *Woollen cloth* at *Nether-Kinmundy* (the property of Francis Garden of Troup, Eſq;) has, of late, become very conſiderable for an infant manufacture. It is conducted by *Meſſrs Thomas & Robert Kilgour*, and deſerves to be particularly mentioned.

About 40 families are employed by them conſtantly; to whom they give houſes and gardens. But far the greater number whom they employ, are ſcattered in this and the neighbouring pariſhes, and work for the company only occaſionally. The articles manufactured here are narrow cloths, from 2s. 3d. to 5s. per yard; and jemmys from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 6d. per yard. They are uſed moſtly at home. For the higher priced ſort of narrow cloths, the demand is daily increaſing. Men, thus employed, earn from 4s. to 10s. a-week; and women from 1s. 6d. to 3d. And in this manner about 2000l. Sterling is diſburſed annually. It is with pleaſure the writer of the preſent article adds, from his own obſervation, as well as from the expreſs teſtimony of their employers, that both men and women are peaceable, ſober, and attentive. As a proof of this, it deſerves to be mentioned, that during the ſpace of 15 years, not a ſingle perſon has been diſmiſſed. Living in a healthy county, and not crowded together, as in towns; and having, moreover, all gardens for the employment of their ſpare hours, they, in general, enjoy good health, and have numerous families. Of late, the labour of carding, teaſing, &c. has been much facilitated by the introduction of machinery moved by water. The raw materials are brought from the N. of England, and not unfrequently from the London market.

Religious Sects and Principles.—Public inſtitutions, whether religious or civil, are fertile ſources of moral principles.

In

In this pariſh, neither our civil, nor our eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhments have been without their effect. The inhabitants are peaceable and good ſubjects; and the ſpirit of our religion is, in general, underſtood and felt to be, what it ever ought to be, a ſupport to ſound morality. An oppoſition between ſpeculation and practical religion, is a common error among the more unenlightened ranks of every country. Its influence is in ſome degree felt here. But a more rational ſpirit ſeems to be gaining ground. With regard to *forms*, and opinions of *ſecondary* importance, the pariſh has been long divided; and where this happens, ſome degree of illiberality is to be looked for. In the year 1790, the writer of this article found 908 belonging to the Eſtabliſhed Church; 723 belonging to the Epiſcopal Church of Scotland, and 85 to the Church of England; 63 were Seceders; 6 were Roman Catholics; and the remaining 7 were either inſane, or belonged to no religious community. But, in general, all theſe ſects maintain a peaceable and friendly intercourſe with one another. It might gratify curioſity, and illuſtrate ſome of the leading principles in human nature, to trace the operation of thoſe cauſes which have concurred to produce ſo great a number of Epiſcopals in this and in ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes. But ſuch an equiry would ſwell this part of the Statiſtical Account too much. It may be obſerved, in general, that, as the lower ranks are incapable of forming religious creeds, which can ſtand the teſt, even of their own reflections, for any length of time, we muſt look for the cauſes of a long eſtabliſhed attachment to opinions and forms, in the influence of authority, intereſt, and habit. If oppoſition and perſecution unhappily lend their aid to that influence, impartiality is generally baniſhed, and the effect becomes much ſtronger.

Poor

Poor.—The fund for the ſupport of the *poor*, ariſes from the weekly collections, and the intereſt of a ſmall ſum, begun by charitable donations, and encreaſed by an œconomical management, particularly during years when the neceſſaries of life were eaſily acquired; about 20 l. Sterling is diſtributed annually among about 30 families, but is, by no means, found ſufficient to aſſiſt induſtry in procuring a comfortable ſubſiſtence:—With no other view ought money to be given; and with this, a very ſmall ſum will do more ſervice than ten times its value, when it is depended on as a ſubſtitute for induſtry. Of the 20 l. above mentioned, 5 l. Sterling is given annually by one of the heritors*; and the diſtribution of it is confined to the poor on his own eſtates:—A practice which deſerves to be imitated; particularly in a pariſh where, in the preſent caſe, there is not a ſingle reſident heritor to attend to the wants of the poor in extraordinary caſes. *N. B.* The members of the epiſcopal congregation ſupport their own poor.

Manſe, Stipend, School, &c.—The pariſh of Longſide was erected in the year 1620, from the pariſhes of Peterhead and Crimond; with which laſt mentioned pariſh there ſeems to have been formerly a communication in the N. E. corner, where now the pariſhes of St Fergus and Lonmay meet each other. The original ſtipend was 120 l. Scots, and 400 merks of vicarage teinds, which are ſtill drawn by the miniſter, but do not produce above 260 merks. In 1668, it was augmented with 4 chalders of grain; and, in 1791, with 3 chalders more, and 60 Scots for communion elements. At the time of the laſt mentioned augmentation, an application was made to have the *vicarage teinds* converted, on account of the deficiency above mentioned, and the diſagreeable

* Mr Fergusſon above alluded to.

cumſtances attending their collection (circumſtances frequently incompatible with the uſefulneſs of a clergyman,) but failed.

The family of Mariſchall, which had formerly very conſiderable property in the pariſh, were the original patrons; probably in conſequence of the canonical rule; *Patronum faciunt, dos, ædificatio, fundus.* The right of preſenting is now annexed to the Crown. The preſent incumbent has no manſe, but receives in lieu of it an annuity from the heritors. The original church ſtill remains; but has been repaired at different times.

Under this head, the ſituation of the ſchool ought to be mentioned; as being (the writer of the preſent article would gladly hope) ſingular. The ſalary is only *nine bolls of meal;* which the ſchoolmaſter has to collect from the tenants in very ſmall quantities, and of conſequence at a great loſs. The emoluments ariſing from teaching, owing to the very low price of education, (for the ſchoolmaſter is acknowledged to be well qualified for his office) are, at an average of eight years, 4 l. 6s. 7d. a year. Perquiſites ariſing from his offices, as precenter and clerk to the ſeſſion, do not exceed 4 l. Sterling. Of conſequence, his whole living does not amount to more than 12 l. Sterling annually; a ſum not equal to the wages of an ordinary farm-ſervant. When it is conſidered of how much conſequence it is to ſociety (particularly, at a period when the principles of the lower ranks are of infinitely more conſequence to its welfare than ever they were before,) to have perſons properly qualified for the education of youth appointed in the different pariſhes, the circumſtances above mentioned ſeem to demand attention from heritors, and others whom the law authoriſes to provide for the proper maintenance of ſchoolmaſters.

Planting.—The want of woods and ſhelter in this corner of Aberdeenſhire, is one of the circumſtances which ſeems to operate moſt powerfully to its diſadvantage, in the opinion of our ſouthern neighbours. Such extenſive tracts of country as thoſe of Cruden, Longſide, Peterhead, &c. without either trees or hedges to diverſify the landſcape, are, to be ſure, not very gratifying to the eye. And this ſameneſs is the more to be regretted, that the fields are far from conveying the idea of barrenneſs, and that nature by no means intended them to be thus naked and unprotected. It is very evident that Buchan was, ſome centuries ago, remarkably well wooded. Its extenſive moſſes contain the remains of very magnificent trees. No good reaſon, therefore, can be aſſigned for *the ſame ſorts of wood* not thriving in it again, if judiciouſly managed. But few attempts (comparatively ſpeaking) have been made to renew its woods; and thoſe which have been made, have in general been confined to the hilly and moſt barren parts of the country; where the plants have not only had no ſhelter, but little ſoil to bring them forward. It deſerves attention, that in the moſſes, where ſo many trunks of large trees are every year dug up, none of the Scotch firs are ever found. Yet this is the tree which has generally been planted. It commonly riſes to a ſufficient height to afford ſhelter to other plants; and this ſeems to be all that ought to be expected. There are ſeveral inſtances in the pariſh, of the aſh, the plane, the birch, laburnum, larch, ſpruce, and even the oaks thriving well, if we make allowance for the diſadvantages under which they labour, with regard to ſhelter. The only plantation of any conſequence in the pariſh, is one of about 250 acres; to which the above obſervations are very applicable. When the interſtices between the Scotch firs ſhall be filled up with other trees more ſuited to

the different ſoils, and ſome of the wet places drained, (which is the intention of the proprietor,) ſome hopes may be entertained of his ſucceſs in wiping off the reproach of nakedneſs from this part of the pariſh.

Leaſes and Rents.—I have already mentioned, that a conſiderable part of the pariſh is held without leaſes. The tenants, who have any, generally have life-rent ones; and ſcarcely any have more than 19 years. When this circumſtance is conſidered, and at the ſame time the ſmallneſs of the farms, the backward ſtate of improvement will be eaſily accounted for. The rents are generally paid in meal and money; beſides which, there ſtill remain ſome reliques of the ancient feudal ſervitudes, under the name of cuſtoms; ſuch as the payment of peats, poultry, a certain number of day-labourers, &c.

Moſs.—From the great extent of moſs, it will readily be inferred that fuel is to be had in great abundance. In general it is ſo. But when it is conſidered, how much of the beſt ſeaſon of the year is ſpent in preparing it, how difficult it is to be obtained in rainy ſeaſons, and how ill provided particular eſtates are with this neceſſary article; the wiſe policy of repealing the late high duties on coals will appear evident.

Natural Hiſtory.—Under the head of natural hiſtory, may be mentioned various ſorts of *granite*, with which the pariſh abounds. A very beautiful ſpecies of a dark blue colour is found in the N. E. corner of it, which appears to great advantage in a very elegant houſe building by one of the heri-

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tors * at Cairneſs, in the pariſh of Lonmay. Another ſpecies of a lighter colour, but alſo very beautiful, is found at Cairngall; frequent ſpecimens of which are to be ſeen in London and other parts of England. Of both ſpecies very large pieces are frequently cut out, fit for pillars of 12 and 15, and ſometimes 20 feet high. Their hardneſs, however, renders them unfit for any, except the plainer orders of architecture.

Diſeaſes.—About 3 years ago, the putrid ſore throat cut off a good many (principally young perſons); in ſome inſtances 4 out of a family. Graveliſh complaints are alſo frequent, which perhaps may, in ſome meaſure, be attributed to the great quantities of beer uſed, and to the little pains taken in preparing it. Rheumatiſms, too, are common. Frequent fogs in the ſummer, ariſing from the low wet grounds and moſſes in the pariſh, and ſudden changes of weather, occaſioned by our peninſular ſituation between the German Ocean, on the one hand, and the Murray Frith, on the other, ſeem to point out their cauſes. But notwithſtanding theſe mementos of frailty, the climate, on the whole, may be termed healthy. And though no very extraordinary inſtances of longevity can be mentioned, few pariſhes can produce a greater number of perſons above the age of fourſcore.

Hiſtory.—This article would be almoſt entirely confined to the hiſtory of private families, and of the changes which landed property has undergone in the pariſh (circumſtances too minute and unintereſting, to merit a place in a Statiſtical Account of a country) did not one part of it give ſome indications of its having been the ſcene of *public and national conteſt.* This

* Charles Gordon of Buthlaw, Eſq;

This is the part of the pariſh where it joins Cruden. On the declivity of a hill, which ſeparates the two pariſhes, there are ſtill viſible a great number of *tumuli*, or ſmall cairns, in which are found ſquare apartments, formed by rough ſtones, of from 18 inches to 2 feet, and containing aſhes or red earth. At a ſmall diſtance from theſe, and nearly on the higheſt part of the hill, is a cairn of a much larger ſize, of an elliptical form, and meaſuring in circumference about 400 feet at its baſe. It is well known by the name of *Cairn Catto*; and ſome traditionary legends connect its hiſtory with ſimilar cairns in the pariſh of Cruden, and in ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes, along the Murray Frith, as well as with the idea of a foreign invaſion. At the bottom of the hill are ſome ſprings, known by the name of the *Kemp*, or *Camp-wells*; and a little farther to the Weſt, on the oppoſite riſing ground, is a field, which ſtill bears the name of the *Battle-fauld*.

Language.—The Buchan dialect has been long famous for the want of that neatneſs of articulation, and of that elegance of ſound and accent, by which the Southern and more cultivated nations have characteriſed their reſpective languages. In proportion as language becomes more refined, the uncouth *guttural* is either entirely excluded, or very much ſoftened. In the Engliſh and French, and indeed in all the Southern languages, it is not to be found. In German, Dutch, and Scotch, and the other northern dialects of Europe, it is conſtantly recurring, and ſeems to point out their common origin, independent of etymology. But where any attention has been paid to the cultivation of theſe dialects, the guttural and harſh ſounds of the *g* and *ch*, have been almoſt entirely done away, and either ſoftened into the reſemblance of *j*, or hardened into that of *k*. Any perſon will be ſenſible of this, who

who has heard the pronounciation of Dutch from the mouth of a well educated Dutchman; and ſtill more, if he has attended the theatre at Dreſden or Leipſic. In this corner we retain all the broadneſs of articulation, and, I am ſorry to add, all the vulgarity of idiom, metaphor, and accent, which is to be met with in any part of the world. And it is probable that we ſhall retain theſe peculiarities of language longer than moſt places equally diſtant from the capital; becauſe, except the reſort of ſtrangers to Peterhead, during the water-ſeaſon, few viſit us; and, of conſequence, little of that intercourſe is enjoyed, by which language is ſo materially affected. If the degree of mental cultivation in a country be commenſurable by the ſtate in which a language is found, (which is not a very uncommon rule) then we muſt not ſtate our pretenſions very high. But the phraſe, mental cultivation, is not very definite; and many minds might be pointed out, to whoſe improvement their language would be a very imperfect index. That ſelection of agreeable metaphors, and that poliſh of articulation and accent, which are too often conſidered as the moſt eſſential ingredients in good language, are rather the effect of a cultivated taſte, than of a cultivated underſtanding. And though we may be obliged to give up the former, it is not neceſſary, on that account, to give up all pretenſions to the latter. On the contrary, the pariſh contains a body of men very reſpectable for their knowledge and education, if their circumſtances and purſuits in life be properly attended to.

Provincial Character.—The character of the inhabitants of Buchan, in general, ſeems to differ conſiderably from that of the inhabitants of the other counties, and even of the other diſtricts of the ſame county. They have not their livelineſs of imagination, nor their warmth of feeling. They ſeem to occupy

occupy a place in the ſcale of national character nearer the phlegm of Dutchmen, than the other inhabitants of Scotland in general. The writer of the preſent article was forcibly ſtruck with this obſervation, when he firſt ſettled in the pariſh; and its truth has been confirmed by a few years experience. He has frequently attempted to account for it. Although political inſtitutions have a greater influence on general character than almoſt any other cauſe, yet the appearance of a country operates with an uniform and unceaſing, and therefore with a very powerful effect on the minds of its inhabitants. And it is to this cauſe that the peculiarity of character above-mentioned may, perhaps, in a great meaſure, be aſcribed. A conſtant uniformity in the appearances of nature around us, gives no ſcope for that violent agitation, which ſo frequently takes place in the breaſts of Swiſs and Scotchmen, when they contemplate their mountains, their woods, and their precipices. Our mental conſtitution, therefore, naturally ſettles into a ſpecies of uniformity, analogous to the country which we inhabit; and the leſs elevated and romantic emotions, raiſed by intereſt and mutual intercourſe, take the lead in forming the character. Such ſeems to be the caſe with the inhabitants of this corner of Scotland. The conſequences are, fewer characters very ſtrongly marked, and more difficulty in changing mental habits. In this reſpect, there exiſts a ſtrong ſimilarity between the character of the boors in Holland, and that of the peaſants in this part of Scotland. The latter, however, poſſeſs a greater ſhare of general knowledge; the former a far more intimate and accurate acquaintance with their own particular department. It is between theſe two claſſes that a compariſon, with regard to provincial and national character, can be inſtituted with the greateſt propriety. Becauſe

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knowledge and extenſive intercourſe generally bring the higher ranks nearly to a level in all countries; except in a few particulars, which are not very eſſential to character. It will be readily perceived that this is a ſubject perfectly diſtinct from that of moral and religious character, which is mentioned in another part of the preſent article.

NUMBER XVIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF SOUTH RONALDSAY AND BURRAY.

(PRESBYTERY OF ORKNEY, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ORKNEY.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES WATSON, *Minister.*

Situation and Extent.

SOUTH Ronaldsay is a populous island in the most southern extremity of the county of Orkney, about 6 miles long and 3 miles broad, in which there are two parishes, called South parish and North parish of South Ronaldsay. It probably derives its name from Ronald, a Danish Count, and South is prefixed to distinguish it from North Ronaldsay, the most nothern island in Orkney. South Ronaldsay is bounded by the Pentland Firth on the South and West, by the German Ocean on the East, and by the Ferry of Water Sound, about a mile broad, which divides it from Burray, on the North. There is a small island, about a mile long, and half a mile broad, called Swinna, lying near the middle of the Pentland Firth, containing 21 souls, which makes a part of the South parish South Ronaldsay. It is separated from South Ronald-

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ſay by a branch of the Pentland Firth, through which ſhips of any burden may paſs. Swinna is a barren inhoſpitable iſland, expoſed on all ſides to the utmoſt rage of the Pentland Firth. What probably induced any perſon at firſt to dwell in it, was the hope of high wages from pilotage. Though, at new and full moon, the tide runs againſt this iſland at the rate of nine miles an hour, yet there are few inſtances of wrecks on it: For the reſiſtance which the rocks give to the violence of the large current, produces a ſmall current running along its ſhore to each end of the iſland: Thus, it gives to many a trembling mariner a moſt agreeable diſappointment. When the ſtrong large tide carries him ſo near, that he every moment expects his bowſprit to ſtrike againſt the rocks, and his veſſel to fall to pieces under him, he is delightfully ſurpriſed to feel a current coming from Swinna, which turns him about in a moment, and ſafely conducts him round its terrifying rocks.

Burray is an iſland about 4 miles long and one mile broad, bounded by Water Sound on the South; Holm Sound, 3 miles broad, which ſeparates it from the pariſh of Holm, on the North; and the German Ocean on the Eaſt. Theſe pariſhes are a part of the presbytery of Kirkwall, and ſynod of Orkney. Beſides the three inhabited iſlands above mentioned, there are, within the bounds of theſe pariſhes, three uninhabited green iſlands called Glemſholm, Horda, near Burray, and Pentland Skerry, about 6 miles South from South Ronaldſay, near the middle of the Eaſt end of the Pentland Firth. On theſe iſles, each of which is about a mile long, and half a mile broad, ſheep and cattle are fed. There is a light-houſe to be erected this year on the Pentland Skerry, which will unqueſtionably be attended with manifold advantages to the ſhipping, coming to the Pentland Firth, through

which, it is computed, there paſs, at an average, nine veſſels daily. Near this Pentland Skerry, there are two or three other ſkerries or rocks, on which there is not nouriſhment for any tame living creature.

Soil and Produce.—The arable ground in theſe iſles is ſituated along the ſhores. The ſoil in Swinna is ſhallow, compoſed of ſome black earth, gravel, and ſand. The ſoil of Burray may, in general, be called a light dry ſand, mixed in a few places with ſome coarſe clay. In the month of July, the bear and oats in it promiſe a rich crop; but in Auguſt or September, when the ear demands a greater degree of nouriſhment, it is refuſed; the conſequence of which is, that the grain is ill filled, ſmall, and hungry. But in no part, perhaps of the kingdom, can there be ſeen a richer or more beautiful crop of natural graſs mixed with white and red clover. Potatoes, turnips, peaſe, onions, carrots, cabbages, grow on it to great perfection. It is the ſole property of Sir Thomas Dundas, and it is let in tacks to his factor, who has very much improved his breed of cattle, by raiſing a great abundance of as excellent turnips as can be found in Scotland. Glimſholm, and particularly Burray, abounds with rabbits. It is computed, that they produce annually about 2000 ſkins. The ſoil of South Ronaldſay is extremely various in different parts of the iſland, and even different in the ſame field. It conſiſts of clay, black loams, ſand, and moſs. In ſome places, the ſoil is of an excellent quality, but almoſt every where ſhallow. In all the Orkney iſles, the plough generally touches a rocky or gravelly bottom. For want of incloſurers, there is no ſown graſs:—But large quantities of ground have, from time immemorial, been left to produce natural graſs, on which the horſes and cattle are tied throughout the ſummer,

mer, a part being reſerved for natural hay, which is uſed in winter and ſpring.

Preſent State of Agriculture.—In theſe iſles farming is in a very rude ſtate indeed. The hand of art gives little aſſiſtance to that nature. Almoſt every farmer is a fiſher, and a kelp manufacturer. The ſame man may be ſeen, in a July morning, carrying earth to his dunghill; in the forenoon, catching fiſh in the ſea; and, in the afternoon, burning kelp on the ſhore. Some of the pooreſt people dig their ground with a bit of iron about 3 inches broad, fixed on the end of a long ſtick. Fallowing is not uſed: there is no change of ſeed: there is no proper rotation of crops. Small bear or big, and black oats, have been ſown alternately on the ſame field for ſeveral hundred years. The ſeed-oats never enter into a riddle, but are held up to the wind either in a man's hands, or in a creel, called a coſie, made of ſtraw. The bear ſeed is put through a riddle, but the ſmall grains are not ſeparated from it with any degree of care. Every farmer has a ridge of potatoes, which he plants with ſkill, and weeds with great care; and he is abundantly repaid. One half of his farm is ſown with oats, which being generally full of weeds, gives a very poor return; the other half with bear, which, being manured with plenty of rich farm dung or ſea-weed, yields a tolerable crop. The plough has two ſtilts, and is drawn by four horſes yoked in pairs. Many of the farmers uſe harrows with wooden teeth, which are drawn not diagonally, but with the broad ſide foremoſt, by a rope fixed in the middle of the harrow. The plough, which is ſo light that a man can lift it in his hand with eaſe, turns the ground very imperfectly. It requires all the ploughman's ſtrength to keep it in the ground. And the force which he applies

applies for this purpoſe, occaſions as hard a pull to the horſes as if the plough was of a heavier make. If two or three horſes or oxen be yoked in the harrows, there is a perſon appointed to lead each horſe or ox. Sometimes the horſes, and ſometimes the women, carry out on their backs, in creels made of ſtraw, called caſies, the dung to the fields. Though the poſt goes weekly South and North through theſe pariſhes of Ronaldſay and Burray, yet there never was a road made in either. Of conſequence few carts are uſed. It is no uncommon thing to ſee ſix perſons with ſix horſes, carrying to the mill three bolls of bear.

The tenants in general are tenants at will. South Ronaldſay belongs to 33 different proprietors, few of whom reſide in it. In the mixture of their property, there is a kind of regular confuſion, which bids defiance to incloſures, and ſtifles the very idea of improvement. In winter, the horſes and cattle wander through, and poach the fields, and many hundreds of hogs are digging holes and ditches in them, and in the meadow ground, by night and by day. Some farmers in Burray ſowed ſome of their fields about two years ago with oats, without any other ploughing than what they received from the noſes of the hogs. And they were of opinion, that as it was a light ſandy ſoil, they had a better crop, and fewer weeds, than if they had turned it up with the plough. The ſeaſon for ſowing oats is generally in April, for bear in May; and they are reaped in September and October. Amidſt all the errors in farming already mentioned, there is one practice in harveſt prevails in theſe pariſhes, which the writer gladly begs leave to recommend to the attention of thoſe in the Highlands of Scotland, or wherever the crop is in danger of being rotted by rain; and it is this: every ſheaf, after it is cut, is bound, and ſet on its end, in a kind of triangular poſition, the crop broke gently down; if

they

they are tumbled over by a gale of wind, they are ſet up as before; when tolerably dry, they are put together in one, two, or three thraves, more or leſs, according to the dryneſs, and built on the field in the ſame round form, as in the barn-yard, but more looſely, for admitting air; on the top they are placed very compact, and faſtened to each other, to prevent their falling. By theſe means, the invention of neceſſity, in a damp, rainy climate, an Orkney farmer, though it ſhould have rained in the forenoon, can carry his grain from his field to his barn-yard in the afternoon; and he often does it with ſafety.

Climate.—It admits of no doubt that ſmall iſles, in ſuch a high latitude, are bleſſed with a pure air, and a wholeſome climate. Of conſequence, the inhabitants enjoy perhaps a better ſtate of health, without the phyſicians aid, than thoſe of Mid-Lothian or Middleſex. The climate of Orkney differs not much from that of other places on the Eaſt and North Eaſt coaſt of Scotland, but owing to ſome local cauſes, it is more uncertain and variable. For three months in ſummer the weather is generally ſettled, and the ſea ſerene. Every creature by land and water is in motion, and appears happy. In June, the rays of the ſun ſeem unwilling to depart. They retire not above half an hour. At this ſeaſon, when the ſun dips into the Atlantic, the appearance of numerous rocks and iſles ſcattered through the ocean, the motion of boats and ſhips innumerable, thouſands of cattle grazing on the land, and many more thouſands of fiſhes, great and ſmall, jumping in the water, preſents a ſcene truly delightful, and awfully grand. But ſometimes, in Auguſt or September, a ſtrong gale of wind ſuddenly changes this ſcene into ſadneſs. The ſame force of wind, which, in the interior parts of Scotland, produces no bad effect, is, among

narrow

narrow iſlands, waſhed on all ſides by the German and Atlantic oceans, attended with material injury to boats, ſhips, and the growing corn. The ſea, ariſing from its bed, daſhes againſt the rocks:—the winds waft its ſpray over the ſurface of the iſles:—and thus the crop, *Boum Labores*, the huſbandman's ſupport and hope throughout the year, is blaſted in an hour. Boats are overſet, ſhips are wrecked, and the hardy mariners periſh.

White are the decks with foam, the winds aloud
Howl o'er the maſts, and ſing through every ſhroud;
Pale, trembling, tir'd, the ſailors freeze with fears,
And inſtant death on every wave appears.

Lands on a Weſt or South Weſt expoſure are moſt liable to damages from this cauſe. After a ſtorm of this kind, the ſtalk of oats or bear whitens, conſumes, and dies. But if the ſtorm has not been very violent, and if it be immediately ſucceeded by rain, many of the ſtalks recover their colour, and part of their former vigour. Even the natural graſs eſcapes not altogether unhurt. There is leſs froſt and ſnow, and a more equal temperature, as to heat and cold, in Orkney, than can be found perhaps in any other county of Scotland.

Harbours.—Widewall bay lies on the Weſt ſide of South Ronaldſay, and has a good opening to the Pentland Frith and to Stromneſs. Ships of 500 or 600 tons burden, particularly thoſe from the Baltic, Weſtward bound, frequently ride in it with ſafety. On the North end of the ſame iſland, there is another harbour, called St Margaret's Hope, which, for ſmall veſſels, is one of the ſafeſt and beſt in the kingdom. It is much frequented by lobſter ſmacks, belonging to Mr Selby and Co. London, and to the Nortumberland Fiſhing Society. For a conſiderable time paſt, different Engliſh Companies have proſecuted this fiſhery, and, ſtrange to tell! it is

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the only fiſhery that is proſecuted in Orkney. This fiſhing generally begins in March, and continues until June; begins again in October, and continues until December. Orkneymen are employed to catch the lobſters, and the ſmacks call weekly to receive them. They cannot be caught in the day time. Two men in a ſmall boat, in the night, may catch from 50 to 100, more or leſs, each night, and they receive for each 7 farthings. This fiſhery unqueſtionably brings mony into the country; but as the fiſhers are employed in it a part of the year, and learn, during the other part of it, habits of idleneſs and extravagance, it is, upon the whole, doubtful whether it be uſeful or not to the country.

High Rocks and Curious Stones.—In South Ronaldſay there are three headlands or rocks, preſenting a bold front to the ocean, called Barſick Head, on the weſt ſide; Halero Head and Stores Head, on the eaſt ſide, each about 250 feet perpendicular above the level of the ſea. There is a ſmall ſtone erected in Sandwick, another near Stores, and a large one near the manſe, about 14 feet high, 2 feet broad, and 8 inches thick. About theſe ſtones conjecture is ſilent, and even tradition tells not a lie.

Antiquities.—The Roman Catholic Religion had once a firm footing in theſe iſles. In thoſe days, South Ronaldſay was the deanery of Orkney, and its clergyman provoſt of the cathedral. There are yet to be ſeen in this iſland the ruins of 7 old chapels. It is believed that ſome of them were erected by mariners, who, deſpairing of life in tempeſts at ſea, vowed to build a church on their arrival at the firſt harbour.

At the chapel near St Margaret's Hope, burnt earth and ſtones, pieces of deer's horns, and human bones, have been

frequently dug up. There are alſo ſome remains of Pictiſh houſes, and watch-towers, in different parts of the iſland. But, in treating on this ſubject, the inquiſitive mind every where meets with darkneſs viſible.

Mill.—There is plenty of good ſpring well water in theſe pariſhes, but not ſo abundant as to form a lake or river. About 5 or 6 months yearly, the mills are ſupplied with water by rain from the heavens. There is one water mill in Burray; but that iſland is ſo dry that it is ſeldom able to grind much of the ſubtenants grain. For this purpoſe, they muſt croſs over ſeas; and, to comfort them in this labour, they muſt pay multure at the mill where they grind, and alſo at their own, where they cannot grind. There are 4 water mills in South Ronaldſay, at which the 12th part of oats, and the 14th of bear, are paid. The two wind-mills, lately erected in it, grind bear only, and are paid with the 16th part. Kelp is made from the weeds which grow below the flood water mark, of which there are 4 different ſpecies, technically named, and accurately diſtinguiſhed, by Linnæus. As the ſea ebbs, theſe weeds are cut with hooks, carried above the flood water mark on barrows, and, after being ſpread and dried, they are burnt in a round hole dug in the earth, built about with ſtones. The ſubſtance extracted by burning from theſe weeds, in its liquid ſtate, ſomewhat reſembles tar, or melted lead. When cool, it becomes hard as the ſolid rock. It is uſed in the manufacture of ſoap, allum, coarſe and fine glaſs, &c. There are about 125 tons of kelp made annually in theſe pariſhes. This is a valuable ſource of wealth to theſe iſles; and could a method be found out, during the burning operation, to preſerve the kelp in a ſound ſtate, and at the ſame time free from impure mixtures of earth, ſand, and ſtones, it would very conſiderably extend its uſe, and enhance

hance its price. This is a great deſideratum, for which Orkney ought to give a thouſand guineas as a premium.

Eccleſiaſtical State of theſe Pariſhes.—Sir Thomas Dundas of Kerſe, Baronet, is patron. There is a new manſe and offices building, by the authority, and under the direction of the Court of Seſſion. The church of the South pariſh was rebuilt about 5 years ago. The church of Burray needs ſome repair. The North pariſh church walls have for ſeveral years ſtood without a roof, expoſed to all the winds of heaven. There never was a parochial ſchool in the charge.

Lady Charlotte Dundas has, within theſe laſt ſeven years, with a liberal humanity, exerted herſelf to promote ſome uſeful plan of education. For this purpoſe, ſhe has repeatedly ſent quantities of writing paper, and a variety of well choſen books to the miniſter, to be diſtributed among the poor and ignorant. William Jamiſon, Eſq; a native of South pariſh South Ronaldſay, who went about 34 years ago to Hudſon's Bay, where he ſtill reſides as a factor for the Company, wrote laſt year to Andrew Graham, Eſq; his friend and agent in Edinburgh, and alſo to the miniſter, to appropriate 20 l. Sterling a year, as a ſalary to a ſchoolmaſter in the pariſh where he was born. There are no diſſenters or ſectaries of any kind in theſe pariſhes. No miſchief is dreaded here, either from the flame of fanaticiſm, or the fire of ſedition. Inſtead of ſectaries, eager about building new churches, there is generally a law ſuit, at the inſtance of the miniſter, for repairing or rebuilding the old ones. The greateſt part of the miniſter's ſtipend is paid in kind, principally in bear and butter. The yearly average value of it may be called 85 l. Sterling.

Population.

No. of families in South Ronaldſay,			274
—— ſouls in ditto			1615
—— ſouls in Burray			318
—— ſouls in Swinna			21
	Total number in the charge		1954
No. of baptiſms in South Ronaldſay	for 1791	are	44
—— —— —— —— ——	for 1792	are	36
—— —— —— —— ——	for 1793	are	41
—— Marriages in it	for 1791	are	10
—— —— ——	for 1792	are	4
—— —— ——	for 1793	are	8
In the South pariſh of South Ronaldſay the No. of ſouls are			567
In the North pariſh of ditto			1048
Males			378
Females			482
Children under 8 years of age			188

Valued Rent, Stock, &c.—The valued rent of South Ronaldſay, Burray, and Swinna is 3512 l. Scots. It is extremely difficult to ſtate with preciſion the real rent, as it is paid in money, in bear, malt, meal; in butter, oil, hogs, geeſe, hens, and ſervices. By a rough calculation, the preſent yearly rent of theſe pariſhes, including kelp, may be called 1500 l. Sterling.

The No. of horſes in South Ronaldſay are	674
No. of carts in ditto	23
No. of cows in ditto	455
No. of ſheep in ditto	746
No. of hogs in ditto	240
No. of fiſhing boats in ditto	51
No. of flocks and geeſe	20
No. of ankers of ſpirits conſumed yearly in ditto	100

Prices of Labour, Proviſions, &c.—The wages for a principal man ſervant for farming, is yearly from 3 l. to 4 l. Ster-

or

ling; for an ordinary man ſervant, from 2 guineas to 50 s; for a boy, from 20 s. to 25 s; for a female ſervant for farming, a guinea. In harveſt, a man ſervant 12 s. to 15 s.; a female ſervant, for harveſt, from 5 s. to 7 s. There is little or no demand for day-labourers, and when there is, few or none can be found. Sometimes they are paid with 4 d. ſometimes with 6d, and victuals four times each day.

The ſmall horſes, generally brought to theſe pariſhes from Caithneſs, and Strathnaver, only one year old, are bought at from 2 l. to 5 l. Sterling; and they are begun to work when two years old. After eight years of age, or more, they are generally ſold again at nearly the ſame prices to the inhabitants of the countries from whence they came. The price of an ox, when young, that will weigh about 18 ſtone, is from 3 l. to 4 l. Sterling; of a young cow that will weigh about 15 ſtone, from 50 s. to 3 l. Sterling; a wedder 5 s. or 6 s; a lamb 20d. or 2 s; a hog from 6 s. to 10 s; a gooſe 1 s. or 1 s. 2d; a hen 5d. or 6d; a dozen of eggs 2d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$; a ſtone of potatoes 3d; a ſtone of oatmeal 1 s. 4d; of bear meal 1 s. 2d; a ſtone of malt 1 s; a ſtone of wool 10 s. or 12 s; a ſtone of butter 6 s; a ſtone of cheeſe from 3 s. to 4 s; a pound of beef, which can only be got from Lambmas to Martinmas, at $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—There is one ſloop belonging to South Ronaldſay, which each ſpring carries ſalt beef, pork, hides, tallow, yarn, butter, geeſe, value about 60 l. Sterling, to Leith, the produce of theſe pariſhes, and brings back merchant goods. During the ſummer ſhe is freighted with kelp to Dundee, Leith, New Caſtle, Hull, &c.

There are 3 or 4 merchants at the village of St. Margarets Hope, in South Ronaldſay.

There is one Robert Cromarty, an excellent weaver of table cloths and fine linen: There are 6 other weavers of coarſe

riſhes

ſtuff: There are four blackſmiths, and 6 or 7 coblers. But the employers of the former muſt furniſh iron and coals, and of the latter, hemp and leather. There are in theſe pariſhes 2 indifferent, and 2 tolerably good inns; the houſes for ſelling ale and ſpirits are by far too numerous. There are alſo one good ſquare wright, and 3 or four of inferior ſkill: There are 2 fidlers, and one piper, who profeſſes by means of his muſic, to baniſh the rats from their habitations. Their is one notary public, who has property in South Ronaldſay, and occaſionaly reſides in it. Corbies, crows, and often eagles, are found in theſe pariſhes: They often do conſiderable damage to the corn, lambs, and poultry. Gulls, ſcarfs, kitty-weaks, rock-pidgeons, plovers, ſnipes, ſolon geeſe, larks, rails, and ducks of all kinds, abound. There are no hares or foxes to be found, and it is ſaid they cannot live in Orkney. There is no inſtance remembered of a dog being mad: Muir fowl are numerous in many iſles of this country, but for want of heath, few or none can be found in theſe pariſhes:

Fiſhes.—Cod, ling, ſkate, turbet, haddocks, ſillocks, quiths or cuddens, lobſters, cockles, are found around theſe iſles in ſuch abundance, that almoſt every perſon ſupplies himſelf, and few or none are ſold. The price offered by the purchaſer is not a ſufficient compenſation for the labour and expence of the fiſher. On account of the high duties on ſalt, very few indeed are cured for market. Conſequently thoſe who do not fiſh, or have no ſhare of a boat, are at all times ill ſupplied, and in ſtormy weather, even thoſe who do fiſh, muſt reſt ſatisfied with the ſour fiſh, which are dried by the ſun and air, or by the ſmoke and fire in their houſes. In July and Auguſt, ſhoals of herrings, numerous as the ſand on the ſea ſhore, are ſeen around theſe pariſhes; but for want of nets, ſalt, &c. none are caught or cured here.

Character and Manners of the People.—There are few or no inſtances of any perſons being convicted of capital crimes; but petty theft is very frequent. There are no Juſtices of Peace to puniſh this vice; and if there were, it would be extremely difficult to convict the delinquent; becauſe there is a very general belief, that whoſoever is concerned in bringing the guilty to puniſhment, will never thrive.

Within theſe laſt ſeven years, the miniſter has been twice interrupted in adminiſtering baptiſm to a female child, before the male child, who was baptized immediately after. When the ſervice was over, he was gravely told, that he had done very wrong, for as the female child was firſt baptized, ſhe would, on her coming to the years of diſcretion, moſt certainly have a ſtrong beard, and the boy would have none. No couple chuſes to marry except with a growing moon, and ſome even wiſh for a flowing tide. The exiſtence of fairies and witches is ſeriouſly believed by ſome, who, in order to protect themſelves from their attacks, draw imaginary circles, and place knives in the walls of houſes. The worſt conſequence of this ſuperſtitious belief is, that when a perſon loſes a horſe or cow, it ſometimes happens that a poor woman in the neighbourhood is blamed, and knocked in ſome part of the head, above the breath, until the blood appears. But in theſe pariſhes there are many decent, honeſt, and ſenſible people, who laugh at ſuch abſurdities, and treat them with deſerved contempt. The paſſion of the young men for a ſea faring life nothing can exceed, except their averſion to a military one. Four or five young men have this winter voluntarily entered on board his Majeſty's navy. Every year ſeveral young men go to Greenland or Iceland fiſhing, to Hudſon's Bay, or on board ſome merchant ſhip: All of them prove to be excellent ſailors. And

it

it is believed, that they are more induſtrious abroad than at home. In no country are the people more tenacious of their old cuſtoms than here. There are 3 churches in the miniſter's charge, at which he preaches by turns; but few of the people are diſpoſed to attend divine worſhip, except once in the three weeks at their own pariſh church.

Means by which the Situation of the People could be ameliorated.—On this part of the ſubject, the writer enters with diffidence. For he is abundantly ſenſible, that it is much eaſier to find fault with what is, than to propoſe proper practicable remedies. Anxious, however, about the proſperity, and ardently wiſhing to promote the induſtry of theſe pariſhes, he begs leave to ſubmit to the conſideration of the diſcerning few, the following improvements:

1*mo*, A good road for the poſt, through the middle of the iſlands of Burray and South Ronaldſay.

2*do*, That the proprietors grant at leaſt a nineteen years leaſe, to each of their tenants, for a certain rent, one half of which to be payable in money, the other half in kind; the money rent to be paid in 6 months after his entry, the rent in kind in 18 months after his entry, and ſo on during the the leaſe. Each tenant to receive from his proprietor one or two carts, at the option of the tenant, the value of which to be eſtimated by two perſons mutually choſen, and paid by the tenant in ſuch moities, and in ſuch time as can be agreed on. No ſervices to be demanded of the tenant.

3*tio*, That the tenants be encouraged to labour rather with oxen than horſes, many of which die yearly.

4*to*, That there be two ſchools erected in South Ronaldſay, and one in Burray, for the education of youth.

5*to*,

5*to*, That there be two houſes in Burray, and three in South Ronaldſay, and no more, allowed to ſell ſpirits and ale.

6*mo*, That every farmer ſhall keep his beſtial throughout the year on his own ground.

7*mo*, That the proprietors ſhall inſtruct and adviſe their tenants, frequently to change their ſeed-oats and bear, and to dreſs both with ſkill and care.

8*vo*, That if a ſoaperie, roperie, or herring fiſhery, were eſtabliſhed near the harbours of Widewall Bay and St. Margaret's Hope, in addition to the improvements above recommended, the writer would not deſpair of ſeeing the inhabitants of theſe pariſhes, as induſtrious in their ſtations, and as comfortably eaſy in their circumſtances, as could be found in this, or any other pariſh in the North of Scotland.

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF CAMPSIE,

(PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES LAPSLIE, *Miniſter.*

Situation and Name.

THE pariſh of Campſie meaſures eight Engliſh miles in length, and ſeven in breadth, following the two great lines of road which interſect the pariſh nearly at right angles; the mean length is about ſix miles, and the mean breadth ſix, containing 36 ſquare miles; and allowing only 400 acres to every ſquare mile, the amount will be 14400 acres; it contains 101 plough gates of land, and is valued at 6429 pounds Scots. §

It

§ This pariſh, previous to the disjunction in the 1649, made a particular diſtrict of country by itſelf, not a little marked by peculiar manners and cuſtoms. It was bound on the North, by a range of hills running parallel to the Strath for near ten miles; on the South, by the river Kelvin, which, in theſe days, formed a ſwamp impaſſible in winter; on the Eaſt, the Gurrel Glen became another natural barrier; on the Weſt, Craig-Maddie Muir and the Brawzet Burn ſeparated this diſtrict from Strathblane and Baldernock.

Campſie

It is bounded on the North, by the pariſh of Fintry; on the Weſt, by Srathblane and Baldernock; on the South by Calder and Kirkintilloch; and on the Eaſt by Kilſyth; forming a diſtinct commiſſariot along with Hamilton, ſtiled the commiſſariot of Hamilton and Campſie.

It is preſumed, that the winding appearance of the ſtrath in general, and particularly of the glens near which the pariſh church is ſituated, has given riſe to the name Campſie, or Camſi, which, in the Celtic language, is ſaid to ſignify crooked Strath or Glen.—Of courſe, the Clachan of Campſie, is, the place of worſhip of the crooked glens.

Indeed, if we attend carefully to the appearance which this diſtrict preſents to thoſe who view it from any of the neighbouring ſtations, particularly the bending of the hills in the form of an amphitheatre, above the village of Clachan, from which five ſtreams, pouring down from five winding glens,

Campſie, in its original ſtate, was eleven Engliſh miles long, from Weſt to Eaſt; its breadth varied on the Weſt march, from Calder houſe to the Earl's ſeat, it was at leaſt nine Engliſh miles; whereas, on the Eaſt march, its breadth was ſcarcely ſix.

It contained 150 plough gates of land and was valued at 9670 pounds Scots. It may be oberved that Campſie is ſituated in the Lennox, and formerly made the eaſtern diviſion of that ancient territorial thaneſhip. In the year 1649, the Lords Commiſſioners for Valuation of Teinds, disjoined all that part which lay betwixt Inch-Wood Burn and the Garrel Glen on the Eaſt, annexing it to the pariſh Monniabrugh, now better know by the name of Kilſyth, which portion contained 30 plough gates of land, and is rated at 2000 pounds Scots valution. In like manner they disjoined all that portion on the South Weſt, which is ſituated betwixt Balgrochan and the Brawzyet Burn, annexing it to the pariſh of Baldernock, containing 21 plough gates of land, and valued in the county books at 1241 pounds Scots. Theſe two disjunct portions will no doubt be deſcribed by the miniſters of the reſpective pariſhes to which they belong.

form the water of Glazert, this etymology of Campſie will not appear unnatural.

External Appearance and Soil.—It would not be eaſy to reduce the ſuperficial appearance of this pariſh to any regular figure; it can neither be ſaid that it is a ſquare, a parallelogram, or a triangle; the irregular bending of the hills prevents the eye from comprehending it in one view, and the bounding lines of the pariſh have never been accurately meaſured: in looſe terms, it may be ſaid to conſiſt of two hills, with a conſiderable valley or ſtrath between them; the South hill being the continuation of the Kilpatrick Braes, ſloping gently down upon the Glazert and Kelvin; the height is about ſeven hundred feet, arable to the top.—Between this South brae and the North hill, (better known by the name of Campſie Fells,) there is a conſiderable ſtrath, narrow indeed on the Weſt, but as it runs Eaſt, it widens into an open champaign country. The ſurface of the ſtrath is uneven, excepting a few haughs on the Kelvin, and Glazert.—Not that the land can be ſtyled rugged or broken; for almoſt on every ſide of the gentle ſwells, with which this ſtrath abounds, ſome ſmall rivulets collect the waters from the riſing grounds; ſo that, even ſuppoſing the arable part of the pariſh to be in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation, the husbandman would neither find it eaſy nor expedient to plow the ridges long in one direction.—One meets with boggy, ſtannery, croft, and clay ground, almoſt in every farm.—The haughs which ly upon the Glazert and Kelvin, are compoſed of carried earth, brought down from the hills in floods; of courſe, thoſe upon the Glazert, as being nearer the hills, contain a conſiderable quantity of gravel, and are better calculated for raiſing potatoes, and turnip. The Kelvin haughs, on the other hand, being

being formed of the ſleigh which the river depoſits on overflowing its banks, muſt be better adapted for the culture of beans and wheat; and as the Kelvin, by the new cut which is making, will ſoon be confined within its proper channel, it is to be preſumed, that the farmers will then make the moſt of the excellent ſoil which lyes upon that river. At the kirk of Campſie, there is a haugh of near three hundred acres, capable of producing all ſorts of green crops, at leaſt equal to any in the county. *

Climate.—The climate of this pariſh, like every other part in the Weſt of Scotland, conſiſting of hill and dale, is exceedingly variable; at the ſame time, there is reaſon to believe, that more rain falls at the kirk of Campſie than in any of the neighbouring pariſhes to the South and Eaſt: Nor is it to be wondered that the climate ſhould be wet, when the ſituation of

* Although the ſoil of this pariſh be ſo exceedingly varied, nevertheleſs that part of it which contains coal and lime, uniformly appears to be clay, forming two belts of unequal breadth; the one upon the North of the water of Glazert, is nearly a thouſand yards in breadth, commencing about a mile Eaſt from the church, and continuing all along the baſe of the hills to the eaſtern boundary of the pariſh. The other belt encircles the South braes, and its breadth is ſomewhat greater; ſuch is the appearance of the ſurface in the Strath. As to the Campſie Fells, which make about two fifths of the whole pariſh, they run parallel to the Strath, from one end of the diſtrict to the other. The face of the hill is ſomewhat broken with craigs and glens; the ſummit and back part is a deep muir ground, interſperſed with moſs hags; the ſoil on the face of the hills produces a ſhort feeding graſs, equal to any brae ground in the kingdom; while the muirs are thought to be well calculated for the rearing of young black cattle in the more marſhy parts, and for keeping ſtocks of ewes upon the drier ground. In general, it may be ſaid, that the ſoil in the Weſt end of the pariſh, and particularly North of the Glazert, is moſt adapted for paſture; whereas the land on the South and Eaſt ſide, ſeems fitter for grain.

of the place is conſidered; the Campſie Fells being ſituated betwixt the Friths of Forth and Clyde, the vapours which collect from either ſea, as they float along, are intercepted by the high ridge of the mountain; and being thus compreſſed, they deſcend in ſhowers upon the valley; nevertheleſs, it being a light gravelly bottom, the Strath being well ventilated, and the ſtreams of water, owing to the great declivity, running off quickly, the pariſh is, upon the whole, uncommonly healthy. Perhaps the great plenty of coal, which enables the meaneſt cottager to obtain a hearty fire, along with the uncommon purity of the ſpring water, may not a little contribute to the ſalubrity of a climate which in other reſpects might be prejudicial to health from its dampneſs. Whatever other obſervation one might be diſpoſed to make on the weather in this diſtrict, it muſt be allowed, that it is remarkable for variety; we have often ſeen ſnow in a morning, rain at mid-day, and froſt in the evening, and this alternately for ſeveral days.—Of courſe, it would be impoſſible to ſay, as it is ſaid in ſome parts of the iſland, that ſuch a month is dry, or ſuch a month is warm; the drought of Auguſt we have often witneſſed in November, and the tempeſtuous ſhowers of February are often experienced in July.

Water

† Old people pretend to ſay that the ſeaſons are altered, and particularly that they have become colder; and in corroberation of their opinion, they adduce the very flattering but fallacious teſtimony of what they felt in their youth, and how the corn ripened ſooner on the braes than now: The teſtimony of an old man, about what he felt in his youth, when his blood was warm, and his ſpirits high, can by no means be conſidered as an unequivocal proof of the ſtate of the weather; nor is the circumſtance of the corns on the high ground ripening ſooner than at preſent, an index of the alteration of the ſeaſons. For we all know, that where the ſoil is thin, and often ploughed, the ſcanty meagre crop will be diſpoſed ſooner to whiten, even if the

Water, Wood, and Mountains.—This pariſh may be ſaid to be uncommonly well watered: In the greateſt drought, the number of ſprings from the hills afford ſuch quantities of water, that the machinery at the different print-fields have a conſtant ſupply. There is properly ſpeaking but one river in the pariſh; and even this one is on a ſmall ſcale; it is formed by three ſtreams, uniting below the kirk of Campſie: it then receives the name of Glazert, which is ſaid to ſignify in Gælic, the water of the gray, or green promontory, alluding perhaps to the greenneſs of the hills from whence the ſtreams flow. The Glazert, allowing for all its windings, runs about five Engliſh miles, before it joins the Kelvin oppoſite to Kirkintilloch. It runs with conſiderable rapidity; the fall from the kirk of Campſie to the Goyle-bridge being ſomewhat more

the climate ſhould be wetter and colder, than upon well-reſted rich land. As far, however, as we can pronounce any thing certain, relative to the climate, it may be ſaid that we have ſcarcely any permanent froſt, till after Chriſtmas: we have ſeldom wind from the North and Eaſt, except in the time of a ſtorm of froſt and ſnow, and uſually for a few days about the beginning of May, when in general it is accompanied with an Eaſtland charr, very deſtructive to bloſſoms of fruit trees. Our rain in general is from the South Weſt; and we ſcarcely ever fail to have our Lammas floods, and our Equinoctial ſtorm, the firſt calculated to lodge our corn, before they are ripe, and the laſt to rot them in the ſtuke. Summer 1781 was remarkable for a cold drought, which continued ſeveral weeks withering the graſs, and introducing a black fly upon the corns, which prevented the grain from being ſo plump as uſual. 1782 was remarkable for being a backward ſeaſon, ſo that ſome of our corns were buried below the ſnow on the 31ſt of October. Summer 1783 was remarkable for a thick fog, whereby the ſun was ſcarcely viſible for three weeks; we felt that ſummer a ſlight ſhock of an earthquake. Our ſummers, upon the whole, for theſe ſix years bygone, have been rather cold; our winters, on the other hand, have been open and freſh, as it is termed. So wet have our ſummers been, as almoſt to countenance the fanciful opinion of old people, that the climate was altogether changed. Summer 1794 has been remarkably warm.

more than 100 feet, above 20 feet per mile. Beſides the Glazert, there are no leſs than 19 ſmall burns which fall into it. Perhaps to people who have been accuſtomed to reſide chiefly in a level country, few ſcenes will appear more truly pictureſque than that of the ſtreams of water ruſhing down the ſides of the Campſie Fells in a flood, while the top of the mountain is perfectly hid in the blue miſt. This ſtream of water, though highly pictureſque, and exceeding uſeful, is ſtill accompanied with ſome inconveniences: In the 1*ſt* place, when there is a great drought, the ſpring water is apt to be impregnated too much with mineral water coming from the coal-levels, which muſt prove highly prejudicial to the bleacher. In the 2*d* place, The leaſt ſhower brings down ſuch a quantity of moſs from the hills, as to prove very troubleſome in the finer operations of preparing the cloth: the manufacturers, however, have contrived in a great meaſure to remedy both defects, by filtrating the water through the fine beds of gravel, upon which their works are ſituated; there is one accident which happens, againſt the bad effects of which there is no guarding, but by turning off the water altogether from the works; and that is, when the ſtagnating water in ſome old coal-waſte breaks out, it will tinge every ſtone in the river, for miles, and kill every fiſh which comes within its poiſonous influence. We have ſeen the trouts, after ſuch an irruption, floating on the ſurface, gathered in baſkets full, and eaten by the country people, yet no bad effect following from eating ſuch poiſoned fiſh *. This diſtrict originally muſt have been much better wooded than at preſent, as is evident from

* The Glazert, in former times, was a great depoſit for ſalmon ſpawn, whereby an uncommon quantity of fry was yearly produced, for recruiting the fiſheries on the Clyde, the number of its fords and ſand banks being well calculated for ſuch a nurſery. It is ſaid that the raiſing of the Damhead at Dartick

from the remains of large trees occaſionally dug up in the ſwamps, and of the ſcattered copſe-woods in the glens and braes. There are ſtill three conſiderable woods in the pariſh; the three together contain at leaſt one hundred and ten acres of ground, and conſiſt of oak, aller, birch, ſaugh, and aſh; though the timber of theſe woods be reckoned good, they are but of ſlow growth; the woods upon the banks of Lochlomond arrive at fuller maturity in 18 years, than the Campſie wood in 28.

The different articles made from theſe woods are ſold at the following prices on the ſpot: Stobs at 4s. the hundred, four feet long; kebbres for houſes at 3s. per dozen, if made of birch, and 6s. of aſh; cart-trees at 1s. and 1s. 4d. the pair. A woodman receives 1s. 2d. for cutting and making the hundred ſtobs; and peelers of bark, if men, 1s. per day, and women 8d. Bark ſells at 15s. the boll, 12 ſtone weight; and

Dartick mills, upon the Kelvin, is the ſole cauſe why the fiſh come not up in rodding time to the Glazert. Perhaps there is ſome truth in ſaying that one great reaſon of the ſcarcity of ſalmon in the Clyde, is the little regard paid to the young fry.

It would at leaſt be an object to the country at large, and particularly to that city, that greater attention ſhould be paid to this article, ſo that the tributary ſtreams which formerly ſupplied the Clyde with fry, ſhould not be rendered totally uſeleſs. I have not heard of a ſingle ſalmon being ſeen in our river for 18 years; whereas, in former days, they were ſo plenty in ſpawning time, that it was cuſtomary, though unlawful, for the country lads to go out with torches made of the dreſſings of lint, and with long ſpears to kill conſiderable quantities of theſe foul fiſh.

Although ſometimes the water from the coal-waſtes deſtroys the trouts in the Glazert, yet as the glen and burns, at the head of the pariſh, are well ſtocked, the river is quickly repleniſhed.

Our trout ſeems to be of two diſtinct ſpecies; the muir trout, with the black back, is a poor, lank, inſipid fiſh; the Kelvin trout is yellow in the ſkin, and much plumper and richer in the fiſh. There is only one loch in the pariſh, containing about 32 acres, where there is a conſiderable quantity of perch.

the reſpective proprietors are bound by their leaſes to drive it to market. Although the ſtrath of Campſie be remarkable for growing barren-timber, there is much leſs planting, either in belts or in hedge-rows, than might have been expected: To ſay that the ſpirit for planting is only beginning in the end of the eighteenth century, in a country ſo calculated by ſoil and ſhelter to produce fine timber, is not ſaying much to the praiſe of our induſtry. As to fruit trees, it may literally be affirmed, that there is not one orchard in the whole pariſh; therefore it cannot be ſaid, from recent experience, whether it be a ſoil adapted for the production of apples or not. Conſiderable attention of late, however, hath been paid by the gentry to their kitchen gardens; it is to be hoped, that the ſpirit of gardening, ſo long dormant, will exert itſelf in the formation of orchards, and the laying out of plantations: Indeed, in a country where grazing is ſo much practiſed, it is rather matter of ſurpriſe to the proprietors themſelves, that ſelf-intereſt long ere now ſhould not have led them to form ſhelter for their cattle in winter *.

Wild Beaſts, and Birds.—There are two ſpecies of badger found among the looſe rocks of Campſie Fells, the one ſomewhat reſembling a ſow, the other a dog; the firſt is more arched in the back, and is not ſo nimble in turning itſelf; there has occaſionally been hams made of it in this place. The fox too is a native of this pariſh; the huntſman ſays, that the three

* As to ſmall vegetable productions, they are both exceedingly numerous and varied: moſt of the Scotch plants common to glens, woods, and rocks, are to be found in this diſtrict. Our ingenious friend, Mr David Ure, declares that he hath enjoyed conſiderable pleaſure in ſearching for plants in our ſequeſtered vale; and that his curioſity was not a little gratified. Particularly all the different ſpecies of the lichen is found here.

three different kinds peculiar to Britain are found here: The gray-hound-fox, with the long buſhy tail, white on the top, ſkulks on the Fells, and is particularly deſtructive to the lambs. The other two ſpecies lurk in woods and old waſte coal-pits; the one is low and thick made, of a very dark brown; the other very ſmall, of a lively red and a black tip on its tail; the laſt are the moſt miſchievous to our poultry. There are likewiſe weaſles, otters, polecats, hedgehogs, wild cats; and, of late, ſeveral martins have been ſeen among the rocks. As to birds of prey, there are four ſpecies of hawks; one pair of the gentil falcon breed regularly every year, in the Craig of Campſie, a ſpecies much ſought after by ſportſmen; we have likewiſe the kiſtril, that ſpecies which we perceive ſo frequently in the air, fixed in one place, as it were fanning with its wings, and watching for its ſport: The Goſs-hawk, which builds its neſt upon trees in ſequeſtered places, is likewiſe a native of this pariſh; it daſhes through the woods with vaſt impetuoſity after its prey; and the ſparrow-hawk is ſo common in the upper parts of the ſtrath, that the children of the villagers amuſe themſelves by taming them; both the ſluggiſh inactive buzzard, and the ſoaring glade or kite, are natives of this diſtrict: So common is the glade with us, that its various modes of flight are conſidered as an almanack for the weather, and its note is a ſymbol of moral conduct; we obſerve, when it ſoars high in the air, it prognoſticates good weather; and every boy will tell you that it is not for nothing that the glade whiſtles; alluding to the note of that bird when it glides though the air, watching for its prey. The golden eagle uſed formerly to build in our rocks, though of late it has diſcontinued the practice; but we have a viſit of them annually for ſome months in the ſpring and early part of the ſummer; they are commonly known

among the ſhepherds, by the name of the earn, a viſit of which amongſt the flock is dreaded as much as that of the fox. But of all the birds of prey amongſt us, the hen-harriers, or white aboon-glade, as he is called, is the moſt deſtructive to game, both partridges and muirfowl. They breed on the ground amongſt ruſhes in the muirs, and fly low along the ſurface of the earth in ſearch of prey; the corbie or raven, the hooded or carrion crow, rooks, jackdaws, and the red legged crow, are natives of this diſtrict. There are about ſix pairs of ravens, which breed annually in the rocks, and are exceeding deſtructive to young lambs in a bad ſpring. I have ſeen, again and again, a raven attack a lamb, beat with its wings about its head, till the poor creature fell headlong over a precipice; and before the ſhepherd could climb to the ſpot, the raven had picked out its eyes. The red legged crow is but ſcarce with us; we ſeldom meet with above a pair or two in the whole range of the Campſie Falls; when we do meet with them, it is amongſt the jackdaws, of which there are a conſiderable number which haunt our rocks. A very curious ſcene is frequently exhibited in our hills. If it ſhould happen that a fox leaves his hole, and baſks himſelf in the ſun, among the rocks, immediately all the birds of prey within a mile of him will aſſemble, and flutter, and ſcream over the ſpot where the thief is lurking; eagle and hawk, raven and kite, and jackdaw forget their animoſities, ſeemingly combining in a mutual league to diſturb the retreat of reynard, ſo that the huntſman conſiders theſe birds as infallible guides to his ſport. It may be obſerved, that beaſts of prey are every day becoming ſcarcer. Till within theſe two years, we had a regular bred huntſman, who hunted this diſtrict; his ſalary was paid by the tenants, at ſo much per plough, which huntſman and dogs were kept and fed by each tenant in his turn. The father

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and ſon-in-law performed the office of public huntſman, from the year 1715, till 1792, a period of fourſcore years: They were ſaid to poſſeſs ſome of the largeſt fox hounds in the three kingdoms; they were ſlow but remarkably ſtaunch.—The cry of the hounds, and the animating blaſt of the buglehorn, re-echoed by every rock along the range of Campſie Fells, will be long remembered by the natives of this ſtrath.

Now there are ſcarcely as many beaſts of prey in the whole diſtrict, as to afford amuſement to the graziers in an idle winter day; the only reaſon which has been aſſigned, is, the converting of ſheep paſture into grazing for black cattle, whereby there is leſs food for ſuch ravenous animals; of courſe, the large fox has migrated to the high lands, where his food is more abundant. In proportion as the beaſts and birds of prey, have left this diſtrict, the ſinging birds have increaſed; ſeveral ſpecies have appeared of late, which were formerly unknown, particularly the bulfinch and the wood-lark. It is perhaps at the Clachan of Campſie, which is ſituated in the neighbourhood of copſewoods and retired glens, that a perſon is enabled to comprehend the meaning of a proverbial expreſſion in this county, the ſcreich of day light;—here and there, the lark begins the ſong, which is ſoon heard and accompanied by all the little feathered choiriſters within reach of its note;—The air ſeems to vibrate with the ſound.—As to our migrating birds, the ſtatement in the following table is founded on the obſervations of ten years:

NAMES.

Names.	Arrives.	Diſsappears.
The *White Breaſted Swallow*,	from the 7th to the 8th of May.	September 24th till September 28th.
The *Cuckoo*,	27th of April to the 2d of May.	becomes ſilent about the end of June.
The *Wood Cock*,	about the 26th of October.	abont the beginning of March.
Gray Plover or Lopwing,	about the 26th of March.	about the end of July.
Water Wag tail,	about the 1ſt of April.	about the 1ſt of October.
Stone Checker,	about the 1ſt of May.	about the middle of Auguſt.
Curlew,	about the 1ſt of March	about the 1ſt of October.

In former times, particularly during a hard winter, it was cuſtomary for wild ducks, wild geeſe, and even ſwans, to viſit the ſwamps of this pariſh; theſe being now drained, ſuch fowls are ſcarcely to be ſeen. There are plenty of grouſe in the Campſie muirs; at the ſame time partridges have of late become uncommonly ſcarce; many cauſes have been aſſigned for the rapid decay of this ſpecies of game, ſuch as the wet ſummers, and the pretended increaſe of the birds of prey, which is not fact.

Perhaps it will be found, that this country at preſent is rather in an unfavourable ſtate for nurſing patridges; the broom, and furze, and briers, being moſtly grubbed out, and the land formerly waſte, put under cultivation; whereas artificial ſhelter by belts of planting is not yet produced; while the number of idle boys, belonging to the public works, let looſe upon a Sunday, ſtrolling about the fields with their tarrier dogs, ferreting out the patridge neſts by the ſmell, may be an additional cauſe of the uncommon ſcarcity of this game in the pariſh.

Strata, Minerals, Lime and Coal.—The hills of which in part the pariſh of Campſie is compoſed, are according to the diſtinc-

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tion of naturalſts, of two ſpecies, *primary* and *secondary*; in the firſt, it is ſaid that coal and lime are never to be found, whereas the ſecond abounds with both.

The higheſt ridge of the Campſie Fells, is about 1500 feet above the level of the ſea, and about 1200 from its baſe; where, properly ſpeaking, the mountain commences, the aſcent is very rapid; and from examining the glens, and gullys formed on its ſides, it ſeems to be compoſed of the following ſtrata: At the baſe of the hill, immediately after the coal is cut off, you meet with ſeveral layers of camſtone, (as it is termed with us,) which is eaſy burned into a heavy lime. Immediately above the camſtone, you find at leaſt a dozen ſtrata of ironſtone, of different thickneſs, with a ſoft ſlate interveening betwixt the layers; it is ſaid by thoſe who have examined the ironſtone, that it is of an excellent quality. Theſe different ſeams make up 200 feet of the baſe of the mountain. Then 15 ſtrata of muirſtone riſe above each other to the ſummit of the Fells, where they jut out; in the face of the braes, they go by the name of daſſes or gerrocks. Betwixt theſe ſtrata of muirſtone, you meet with various coloured ſtuff, ſometimes of a copperiſh, ſometimes of an ironſtone colour; and it is ſaid, there are appearances of copper; but the working of it has not as yet been attempted. Lately, when forming the new turnpike-road along the ſide of the hills, ſeveral veins of ſpar and chryſtal were found, not unlike thoſe which accompany lead-mines; and perſons who had wrought at the different lead-mines in Scotland, declared, that the appearances of that metal were both frequent and favourable: no attempt as yet hath been made to follow out theſe appearances. In the whole range of the Campſie Fells, there is only one place where the rocks aſſume a baſaltic appearance; and by thoſe who admire ſuch columnar appearances,

ances, they are said to be very beautiful. Here and there, there were dug out, when forming the turnpike-road on the hills, several strata of most excellent clay marle, both white and speckled;—it has not as yet become an object of attention to the country people. Beautiful pebbles have been found among the rocks, of which a gentleman lately procured as many as, when polished, furnished a set of elegant buttons for a coat. About the middle of the strath, you meet with excellent quarries of free stone, calculated for all the purposes of the builder; but the minerals of which we have the greatest reason to boast, are the inexhaustable seams of lime and coal, which merit a particular description. The coal and lime in this parish are generally found in the same field: The coal, throughout the whole parish, possesses a caking quality; at the same time it is very foul and sulphurous, leaving, when burned, an uncommon quantity of rusty coloured ashes, which make excellent manure for certain sorts of land.

The coal on the North of the Glazert, takes on about a mile East from the Clachan of Campsie, and continues without much interruption to the eastern extremity of the parish; it runs parallel to the Fells, and seldom exceeds a quarter of a mile in breadth: The field on the South side of the river, which forms a belt around the South braes, is considerably broader, and is of much superior quality to the other. The coal is found of different depths from the surface; on the North side, from seven to fifteen fathoms; on the South, from fifteen to twenty two; the seam throughout the whole parish, is, at an average, from forty two inches to four feet in thickness, with two small bands, of an inch and an inch and half, running through it. The strata above the coal is found uniformly in the following manner: After the soil there is found a species of till, interspersed with stones; after which comes a blaze, as it is termed, and which continues to a considerable

ble depth; then ſlate, which, at a medium, is from ſeven to eight feet in thickneſs; after which, there is uniformly lime-ſtone, being a ſeam of four feet; then a ſlate, and then the coal: Such is the regular ſtrata in Campſie in ſinking for coal; with this difference, however, that the ſlate in the North of Glazert, betwixt the lime and coal, is fifteen feet in thickneſs; on the South, it is ſcarcely four; below the coal, there is eighteen inches of a ſtuff, which the workmen term *dalk*; then the white lime, of an inferior quality to the other, and as yet but ſeldom wrought.

The coal in this diſtrict is full of irregularities, ſtiled by the workmen *coups*, and *hitches*, and *dykes*; the truth is, the coal partakes a good deal of the irregularity of the ground above, which is very uneven. If one was to ſpeak in general terms of the whole coal in the pariſh, as one field, it might be ſaid, that the depth was to the South Eaſt, and the riſe to the North Weſt; ſuch really being the aſcent and declivity of the lands in this diſtrict;—but as there are a number of gentle ſwells in the ſtrath, it will happen, that according as the pit is put down on this ſide of the ſwell, or upon the other ſide, the dip and riſe of the coal will appear favourable, or the contary.—The dip is ſometimes ſo ſudden as to be one foot in three, in other places, only one in twenty. Beſides theſe coups and hitches, which are found where the ſtrata above and below the coal ſuddenly approach, or retreat from each other, by this means couping the coal out of its regular bed, there are complete breaks in the ſtrata, termed dykes, which cut off the coal entirely in various directions; theſe dykes are ſometimes obſerved upon the ſurface of the earth, from which they ſink down to an unfathomable depth;—There are two of theſe dykes in this diſtrict, which are remarkable, and ſeem to be uniform throughout: *Firſt*, There is a coup-dyke, which runs from Weſt to Eaſt; North

of this coup-dyke, the coal dips about fifteen feet, and then they may work about three hundred yards into the hill, where they seem to be cut off entirely by a whinstone dyke; so there are two great barriers which intercept the ly of the coal upon the North of the Glazert; the coal on the South of the coup-dyke, takes on almost within six feet of the surface, and is not above six inches thick, with something like a clay roof.

Manner of Working.—There is reason to believe that coal has been wrough in this district for several centuries; but the working of it seems to have been carried in a very aukward irregular manner, taking advantage of the ly of the ground: They used to make large excavations upon the surface, which they termed creeping heughs; from these excavations, they drove a road into the coal heads, and by this means brought the coals to the hill, dragging them on their small sledges up the declivity, which was not very great, as the excavation was always made as much to the dip side of the hill as possible: It is evident, that in this manner they could only work the crop of the coal, where the water created little disquiet; a method, however, highly prejudicial both to the landlord and the public; the next stage of working was by sinking perpendicular pits, stiled windlass heughs. On the North of the river Glazert, these pits were in depth from sixty to ninety feet; but they so contrived it, that these pits were placed near some gully or burn, where, by running a level from a certain part of the burn, all the coal round the pit bottom became drained; and in the sinking of every new pit, they must always do it with a retrospect to their former level; still, however, the coal upon the dip side might be lying under water; for although the declivity in the ground favoured greatly

greatly theſe imperfect ſhort levels, there were many fields of coal which could not thus be drained but at a moſt enormous expence, in driving ſubterraneous mines: In this ſtage of carrying on the work, there were employed at leaſt two men at the windlaſs, putting up the coals in ſkiffies, termed hutches; and it is more than probable that they had likewiſe to pully up the water for a conſiderable time every morning, before the workmen had got the coals raiſed; the coal buſineſs in this diſtrict was carried on in this ſlovenly manner during this century: The country was ill ſupplied; the landlords complained that they never made a ſhilling of their coal, while every perſon was ſurpriſed, that a diſtrict, poſſeſſing ſuch natural advantages, ſhould make ſo little good uſe of them. About two years ago, coal becoming exceedingly ſcarce, and the price riſing ſuddenly, there became an abſolute neceſſity of working it in a better ſtyle; accordingly, Mr Dunmore of Ballindalloch, a gentleman to whoſe activity and patriotiſm this part of Scotland is much indebted, becoming the leſſee of ſeveral works in the pariſh, he immediately erected gins, driven by horſes, for pulling up the coals; which improvement is anſwering the purpoſe, and is either already, or will be quickly followed by the other proprietors; ſo that now we have every probability of this neceſſary article of life being wrought in a ſtyle far ſuperior and more expeditious than hitherto experienced.

All the coalliers in this pariſh now work with the pick and wedge: this, however, is only a late improvement; they pool in the middle of the ſeam, where a ſmall band of ſtone, about an inch of thickneſs, lyes, called the pooling band, and then ſhear down what is above, ſtiled the roof coal, and drive up the ſoal coals with wedges; they carry on their drifts or rooms eight feet by fourteen, leaving ſtoops eight feet by twelve; but this

varies according as the coal is soft or hard; every coallier may be said to be his own drawer; seldom or ever has he any person to assist him; they commonly go to their work at four in the morning, and continue until two in the afternoon; formerly the coals were put out by the *dark*, consisting of twenty eight hutches, for which dark the coallier received one shilling and eight pence, and the proprietors had for lordship one shilling and ten pence; an active workman could very easily put out two of these darks per day, making three shillings and four pence; these hutches becoming more and more uncertain as to the quantity contained in them, both the landlord and public being imposed upon, it became necessary to adopt some new regulations relative to the measure; which has been done accordingly; so that now we compute by loads; each load contains 2184 cubic inches, equal to twenty one Scotch pints and a half, water measure; six of these loads make an exceeding good cart, which should weigh betwixt twelve and thirteen hundred weight; the price, at the pit mouth, being eighteen pence per cart, or threepence per load; a tolerable workman can put out twenty four loads per day, for which he has three shillings; and the landlord the other three shillings. In order to ascertain the quantity of coals raised at the different pits, of which there are no less than sixty going this month of December 1793, we shall calculate the average out-put of the coaliers: There are, in all the different pits, forty six coalliers; allowing three carts and a half per day to each, makes one hundred and sixty one carts per day, supposing them only to work five days in the week; the out-put per week will be eight hundred and five carts; reckoning the coalliers weeks in the year only to be fifty, the out-put in the year will be forty thousand two hundred and fifty carts; supposing that the measure, at a medium, does not exceed eleven hundred weight

per

per cart, the out-put in the year will be 22135 tons and a-half; the price at the hill is ſomewhat better than 2s. 6d. per ton; the total value is 2750l. Sterling, of which the coalliers receive 1375l; the remainder goes for lordſhip, and to ſupport the hills-men and gin-boys, along with the tear and wear of the work.

According to the calculation of men ſkilled in coal-mines, theſe 20,000 tons will at leaſt exhauſt three acres of coal annually, a waſte, which, great as it may appear, we are able to ſupport for 150 years to come; but in reality we are raiſing this ſeaſon, at leaſt, double of what was raiſed formerly, nay, 10 times more than what was put out about 20 years ago; this great quantity of coal is uſed in the following manner: The two printfields conſume annually 3500 tons; above 2100 tons is uſed in burning lime; and the remainder in ſupplying the pariſhes of Campſie, Fintray, Balfrone, Kilairn, Strathblane, Baldernock, and partly Kirkintilloch and Kilſyth. It is doubtful if even yet the coal in this diſtrict be wrought to advantage; in reality, we are as yet but working the crop of the coal; it being abſolutely neceſſary that they ſhould either drive their levels, or erect their ſteam engines upon the dip ſide, ſo that they might work to the riſe. Many great fields at this moment ly buried under water, owing to this defect ¶.

It

¶ No map being made of theſe ſubterraneous works, and no documents being in the poſſeſſion of the proprietors, to point out when and how ſuch a field of coal was wrought, it is only by ſome vague tradition, handed down from one generation of coalliers to another, that we pretend to judge whether the ground be waſted or not; ſo that too often the pit is put down upon a trouble, or waſte, to the great detriment of the adventurer; which miſtake might be eaſily rectified, by each proprietor getting an accurate chart made out of theſe ſubterraneous works, for the benefit of poſterity; beſides many lives

might

It has been obſerved that limeſtone is always found in the ſame field with the coal; it is in general a ſeam from three feet to five in thickneſs, and is wrought in the following manner: They take off the earth from the ſurface, called tirring, which is from 10 to 30 feet; ſeldom or never have they as yet wrought the lime-ſtone by mining. The probability is, however, that they will ſoon be compelled to it; the workmen take tirring at 3d. the ſquare yard; they put out the lime-ſtone at ſo much per chalder, and by experience they know what number of ſquare yards of broken ſtone, makes a chalder

might be ſaved, which are unfortunately loſt by the workmen ſtriking through upon old waſte; as was the caſe February 1789, when five coalliers were killed in the Newk coal-pit of Campſie. I conſider the wages of the coalliers, as by no means in proportion to the wages of other labourers in the pariſh; the labourer having only ſixteen pence per day: Allowing the coallier a third more on account of the danger and diſagreeable nature of the work, viz. two ſhillings, then there would be one third of the wages, which he receives at preſent, ſaved to the public.

Coal, in every inland-diſtrict in Scotland, ſhould not be conſidered as an article of commerce, which the landlord as a merchant, may ſpeculate upon for his own advantage: It ſhould be conſidered as an article of the firſt neceſſity: Proprietors of land ſhould recollect, that every circumſtance which increaſes population, ultimately benefits their eſtates; wherever water is plenty and firing cheap, there the manufacturer and labourer will always reſort. Campſie, at preſent, is conſpicuouſly bleſſed with both; and it will diſcover the folly of the landlords, if ever they permit coals to become much dearer; it is not the richneſs of the ſoil which always brings the higheſt rent to the proprietor; ſome particular local advantage acts in his favour; and perhaps there is none to ſurpaſs the advantage of cheap fuel.

A ſmall farmer (ſuch as we have in this diſtrict) conſiders good oat meal and a good fire as great luxuries; and while the tenants poſſeſs theſe, they will make a conſiderable ſhift to pay their dear rents.

It is with pleaſure that we take notice of the public ſpirited attempts made by ſeveral gentlemen laſt year, to prevent the coals from riſing in this diſtrict; and they have fully ſucceeded: They have perhaps ſunk a little money, but their tenants and dependants have reaped the benefit, and the public hath paid them every reſpect which an elevated mind can deſire.

chalder of lime; the lime is burnt chiefly in ſmall kilns, holding from 10 to 15 chalders, the ſtone being more completely burnt, than in thoſe of a larger ſize; the layers of ſtone and coal are made alternately in the following proportions: 1ſt, Six inches of coal, then 20 inches of lime-ſtone, broken to the ſize of a two-penny-loaf. Two firlots (wheat meaſure) of burnt ſtone make four firlots of ſlacked lime; of courſe, 32 firlots make a chalder of lime, ſold, till within theſe two years, at 4l. Scots, at the quarry, now, 8s. the ready money price; formerly it was ſold with at leaſt 6 months credit. It is doubtful if the ſtate of the country as yet will permit this alteration, ſmall as it is; it requires 6 or 7 loads of coal to burn the chalder of lime. There were employed this ſummer (1793) 40 workmen in the different lime quarries in the pariſh, who raiſed at leaſt 3000 chalders of ſlacked lime; the Campſie lime is reckoned of an exceeding rich quality, much ſought after by plaiſterers; in common building, to every boll of lime one boll of ſand is required, to make proper mortar. The great facts relative to our coal and lime work, are ſtated in the following table:

No. of COALLIERS	46	Wages, 3s per day, or 1375l. per annum.
—— Carts	42,250	per annum, at 18d. per cart.
—— Tons	22,135	per annum.
Price -	18d.	per cart conſiſting of ſix loads.
Weight -	12	hundred weight.
LIME-STONE	3d.	per ſquare yard, tirring.
Chalder	1s. 8d.	the putting out.
Price -	8s.	per Chalder, when burnt at the kiln.
——	8d.	per ditto for ſetting and ſelling lime.

Coal

Coal -	3500	Tons consumed by the printfields.
—— -	2100	consumed in the burning of lime.
—— -	16,465	consumed by this, and neighbouring parishes.
Value	L. 2750	of out-pit this year 1793.
Lime -	3000	Chaldrons burned and sold in the year. 6 Loads of coal, to the burning of 1 chalder of lime: so that every chalder, besides tirring, costs the tacksman in expence of putting out, in setting, and in coals, 3s. 6d. before he can bring it to market.
Men -	40	employed in working lime.

State of Property.—This parish contains one hundred and one ploughgates of land, 73 of which are possessed by eight great proprietors; the other 28 ploughs are possessed by 37 feuars, or portioners, holding charter and seisin; the valuation of the whole parish, being 6429l. 4900l. is possessed by the eight great proprietors, in the following proportions:

	Valuation.
William Lennox of Woodhood -	922
John Lennox of Antermony, -	888
Sir John Stirling of Glorat, - -	800
Sir Archibald Edmiston of Duntreath, -	686
John Macfarlane of Kirkton -	537
John Buchanan of Carbeth, - -	403
John Kincaid of Kincaid, - -	417
John Stirling of Craigbarnet, - -	300

They all reside in the parish, except Sir Archibald Edmiston, who possesses large estates in the parishes of Kilsyth, Strathblane,

Strathblane, Kilpatrick, and Dumbarton: Mr Buchanan of Carbeth, Mr Stirling of Craigbarnet, and Sir John Stirling of Glorat, poſſeſs, each of them, likewiſe landed property in other pariſhes; of this property there are 2260 pounds Scots entailed, and in all probability there will be more added by the preſent proprietors. The ſmall proprietors are feuers of the families of Montroſe, Keer, Glorat, and Bardowie, and beame ſo at the following periods:

Feuers of Montroſe 1632; feuers of Keer 1714; feuers of Glorat 1742; feuers of Bardowie 1713. Landed property in this diſtrict hath changed its maſters as ſeldom as in moſt parts of Scotland; whether this be an advantage to the country, or not, is a queſtion upon which ſpeculative men have differed; but this at leaſt is certain, that the following families; viz. Kincaid of Kincaid, Stirling of Craigbarnet, Stirling of Glorat, Lennox of Woodhead, and Edmiſton of Duntrath, were, in the year 1470, proprietors of the ſame lands which they poſſeſs at this day; the eſtate of Auchinreoch fell by ſucceſſion, in the beginning of this century, to the Buchanans of Carbeth, an ancient family in the pariſh of Killern: Macfarlane of Kirton, a cadet of the family of Macfarlane, became proprietor of Kirton in the year 1624; the eſtate of Antermony is the purchaſe of Captain John Lennox of Antermony, a younger ſon of the ancient family of Woodhead. Perhaps this circumſtance, which may pleaſe the pride of family, is one great reaſon why the improvement of land is ſo very backward in this diſtrict; wherever families reſided long upon an eſtate in Scotland, the object of our Scotch ambition was to poſſeſs a numerous tenantry, live as they may. The laird ſought other means of bettering his ſituation, than by the ſlow returns of agriculture; whereas,

if an eſtate often changed its maſter, it became in reality an object of commerce, and every new proprietor made it ſomewhat better for his own intereſt.

It is curious to obſerve the progreſſive riſe of the land rent in this pariſh, ſince the year 1642; the rent of the plough-gate in thoſe days, was about one hundred merks, beſides feu ſervices: and there is reaſon to believe, that the valuation in Cromwel's time, in this diſtrict, was made as high as the land could really afford in rent; during the firſt years of the Reſtoration, land ſeems to have riſen, (as appears from ſome old tacks:) From the 1680, till the year 1715, it appears that the riſe was but trifling; after this period it roſe conſiderably; and, in the year 1748, was about 1500 l. Sterling; the next riſe was in the year 1763; and, conſidering the value of the land in the natural poſſeſſion of the ſmall proprietors to keep pace with the tenantry, it roſe to about 3000 l. Sterling. The land-rent this preſent year, is betwixt ſeven and eight thouſand *per annum*, upon leaſes, or in the natural poſſeſſion of the ſmall proprietors.

YEARS.	1642	1715	1748	1763	1793
VALUE.	500	800	1500	3000	7000

By this ſtatement, it is evident, that land gives fourteen times more rent in money than it did 150 years ago; allowing for the ſervices and other preſtations payed by the tenants in thoſe days, perhaps we ought not to reckon ſo highly; whether this riſe, however, is to be aſcribed to the gradual improvement of landed property, or the depreciation of money, becomes another queſtion; and perhaps the landholders will not have ſo much reaſon to boaſt of their advanced rents, if the enquiry be fairly made; in this rental, that of cot-houſes is not comprehended, which is at leaſt five hundred

dred *per annum*; theſe houſes have increaſed their rents four times the ſum of what they were in 1745; even ſo late as 1760, four pounds Scots was the rent of a cottage with a ſmall yard annexed to it; ſuch houſes rent now at twenty ſhillings; but, from the improvement made on cot-houſes, the rent of a room and kitchen, or what in the language of the place is ſtiled a *but* and a *ben*, gives at leaſt two pounds Sterling; ſo that the ſame claſs of people pay for lodging ſix times more than they did thirty years ago; this increaſe ariſes chiefly from the introduction of manufactures; now, if the rent of the coal and lime, together with that of the cot-houſes, be added to the land, the total rent of the pariſh may be ſtated to be eight thouſand four hundred pounds Sterling *per annum*.

Preſent State of Agriculture.—It is not poſſible to ſay exactly what number of acres there are arable, and what not, as there is no map of the pariſh, nor has the whole ever been accurately meaſured: If the pariſh contains fifteen thouſand acres, it will be found that five thouſand of theſe are arable; of the other ten thouſand, conſiſting of brae, of muir, and paſture land, three thouſand more may be made arable:—Of courſe, it is about fifty acres of arable land to each plough.

There are ninety-ſix heads of families, who live on this property, either as tenants or feuers; and whoſe employment is either grazing or agriculture; but it is to be obſerved, that there are eighteen heads of families in this liſt, who do not make agriculture their chief employment; poſſeſſing only a few acres of land, and who principally employ themſelves as maſons, or carriers, or road makers; there is another diſtinction to be made of theſe heads of families, who employ themſelves in agriculture; 28 of them are feuers, who farm their

own lands, the remainder are tenantry; ſeven of theſe laſt make grazing their chief employment.

The following is a table of the rents paid by the different graziers and farmers in this diſtrict, in 1793.

No. 1	L. 600	No. 1	L. 400
1	167	1	100

comprehending the feuers who farm their own land. The rents of others run betwixt twenty and ſeventy pounds, excepting upon the forfeited eſtate of Bancloich, where ſome tenants pay as low as five pounds *per annum*, they having got leaſes of three nineteen years in 1748.

The labour of theſe hundred plough gates of land was performed in 1793, by ſeventy ploughs, drawn by 222 horſes, yoked in the following manner:

20	ploughs drawn	4 horſes.	each.
24	ditto	drawn by 2 horſes.	
26	ditto	drawn by 3 horſes.	

The following table exhibits the manner in which the five thouſand acres of arable land was cropped in the year 1793, viz.

2000 acres in tillage and ſown graſs, of which were,
200 acres in barley.
100 acres in potatoes.
30 acres in lint.
200 in ſown graſs.
1500 in oats; of which, we may deduct 20 for peaſe and beans; the remaining 3000 acres in ley paſture for milk cows, and young beaſts.

There were not ten acres fallow, in the whole pariſh; neither were there above four acres in wheat or turnip. Perhaps there is no country in Scotland more calculated for raiſ-

ing

ing turnip than Campſie; at the ſame time, I rather think they do not ſtand the winter well in this diſtrict; I have ſaid 20 acres for peaſe and beans, the wet climate rendering theſe a very unprofitable crop with us, growing all to the ſtraw, without any pods: The produce per acre, at an average, is about ſix bolls;—ſmall as this may appear, it is at leaſt one third more than it was thirty years ago: If a ſtranger was to view our crop at Lammas, when growing, or even in the ſhock, he would be apt to conclude the product to be a great deal more; the truth is, our moiſt climate produces much ſtraw and little corn; I believe, it may ſafely be affirmed, that at an average there is not above fifteen pecks of meal out of the boll; the barley produces better, the ſoil being adapted for that grain; and it is ſaid to malt remarkably well; but the fault lies more in the ſtyle of farming, than in the ground itſelf; ſo late as the year 1763, the farms were poſſeſſed in run rigg;—there was ſcarcely any incloſing; the moment that the crop was ſeparated from the ground, the cattle of the neighbouring tenants grazed in common, till next Whitſunday; the diſtinction betwixt out-field and in-field, was kept up with the moſt ſcrupulous exactneſs; there was no rye-graſs and clover ſown, for making hay; and the bulk of the farmers ploughed their land with what is ſtiled the broad plough, the four horſes yoked abreaſt: Theſe peculiarities are now worn out; at the ſame time, farming, both as to ſcience and practice, is yet but in its infancy in this pariſh. *

Tacks

* It is true, that the climate is not good, but the ſoil is excellent; and as the crops might be adapted to the climate, there are great hopes entertained, that we ſhall one day excel in farming: The following defects in our mode ſeem to be moſt flagrant: 1ſt, The land being full of ſprings guſhing out, wherever any change of the ſoil takes place in the farms;—of courſe, nothing

Tacks in this pariſh are commonly let for nineteen years, with a clauſe that the tenant ſhall bear the public burdens, which, conſidering the land tax, the ſtatute labour, and ſometimes the miniſter's ſtipend, at leaſt the vicarage, and ſchoolmaſter's

ing but underdraining can clear the ſoil of ſuch a nuiſance; and yet unfortunately it is but little practiſed: 2*dly*, Our incloſures are little better than rickle dykes, built of ſtones, gathered from the land, without any mortar;—of courſe, totally incapable of meliorating the ſoil by keeping it warm; which would be the caſe, if the incloſures were made with of quick-ſet hedges, and belts of planting, for which the pariſh is ſo remarkably calculated; theſe dykes give the pariſh a cold and uncomfortable look. 3*dly*, A great proportion of our arable land is laid down in the moſt miſerable manner without ſown graſs, and impoveriſhed by three ſucceeding crops of oats; by this management, it is in a moſt wretched condition, indeed, when broken up to dergo anew the ſame rotation of crops of oats. 4*thly*, Our land, from being in general a light ſoil, and ſituated in a moiſt climate, is much addicted to weeds; it is foul even to rankneſs;—Of courſe, as the corns grow much to ſtraw, the ſtalk of corn is kept conſtantly wet at the root by the weeds; it ſoon rots, and the leaſt blaſt of wind in Auguſt, lodges the corn on the croft-lands before they are ripe; whereas, if ſummer fallowing was practiſed, there cannot be the ſmalleſt doubt, but our crops would be clean and much earlier; yet ſummer fallowing is ſcarcely ever practiſed in this pariſh: Along with theſe defects, I muſt mention two other cauſes, which have not a little contributed to retard our progreſs in agriculture: In the *firſt* place, an over attachment to grazing; which hath led the farmers to ſtudy more the raiſing of fodder, than the raiſing of grain; by this means, the early-ſeed oats have never received much countenance in this diſtrict; but, if we conſider the moiſtneſs of the climate, there is no pariſh which requires them more; and from the experiments we have had of ſowing early oats, upon land well cleaned from weeds by ſummer fallowing, there is every encouragement to proceed;—the grain was fully ripe and early houſed. 2*dly*, I am not ſure but the proprietors themſelves have, in ſome meaſure, contributed to the little progreſs which agriculture hath made in this diſtrict. From an opinion that land was always upon the increaſe, it has not been their object to grant ſuch long leaſes, as to encourage the farmer to ſink money in improving the land: The opinion that has gone abroad amongſt landlords,

maſter's ſalary; the poor man's rent is conſiderably augmented by ſuch items.—Theſe things I don't mention as grievances, for the tenant ſubſcribes to them with open eyes; nor can the landlord be called an oppreſſor, becauſe he receives them; they are all preſtations of a fair contract; and of courſe, if the proprietor did not exact them, he would be entitled to more rent: I ſimply ſtate them as defects in our mode of huſbandry; and which it would be the intereſt both of landlord and tenant to have removed.—Let the tenant know determinately what he is to pay, and let him have the complete uſe of his time, and the complete management of the product of his farm. As to a regular rotation of crops, it is but little known in this diſtrict. The old mode of allowing the land to ly ley for three years, and then liming it, and taking three crops of oats, is, indeed, faſt wearing out; but no regular ſyſtem is as yet introduced in its ſtead.

The rent of the arable land per acre, is ſtated in the following table:

For

lords, that the raiſing the rents of their lands forced the tenants to be more active, might be productive of ſome good effect; providing that indolence was the only impediment to a flouriſhing ſtate of agriculture in this pariſh: Compulſion is but a bad argument, when the object of that compulſion has not ſtrength to obey: I could wiſh that ſuch an idea was exploded; for it is no longer the intereſt of this country to conſider the tenantry upon an eſtate, as part of that eſtate.

In England, things ſeem to be better managed. There are ſtill ſeveral ſervitudes remaining in this pariſh, annexed to the leaſes of lands, ſuch as kain hens, and the driving of the lairds coals; theſe are indeed but ſmall to what took place about 30 years ago; but, even theſe are fetters upon the induſtry of the tenants;—of more hurt to them than of benefit to the landlord; and it is to be hoped, from the many inſtances of an enlightened mind which the preſent proprietors have ſhown, that all ſuch caſualities will be aboliſhed on the firſt opportunity.

For potatoes	from 4l. to 7l. per acre.	A flying crop.
For lint -	ditto ditto	ditto
For good arable	a guinea and a half.	on leaſe.
Ordinary arable	1l. per acre. -	ditto

There is ſcarcely any land in the ſtrath of the pariſh let below 1l. per acre. The brae farms, and the paſture land, are let by ſlump; it is impoſſible to ſay what they rent per acre.

It may be proper here to take notice, that lime, though in ſuch great abundance in this pariſh, was made but little uſe of as a manure till very lately; the inhabitants pretended even to ſay that it ſpoiled the ground by raiſing weeds: the truth is, the objection lay in their injudicious management; there is not the ſmalleſt doubt, where ground is foul, as is the caſe in the ſoil and moiſt climate of Campſie, that lime puts the weeds in vegetation; but if the land had been fallowed, or even permitted to lie long in ley, till the ground was properly ſwarded, there is no country in Scotland, where liming produces a better effect, than in this diſtrict: As ſome recent experiments have ſhewn, we now lime at the rate of from ſix to eight chalders per acre. Such being the ſtate of agriculture in this pariſh, it may be ſaid, without diſparagement, that it is, as yet, but in its infancy; and yet it is but doing juſtice, both to the proprietors and tenants, to obſerve, that the improvements are going on with great ſpirit and ſucceſs.

Grazing.—There is conſiderable attention paid in this diſtrict to the management of black cattle, both for the purpoſes of the dairy, and likewiſe for that of the butcher. The following table exhibits the number of cattle and ſheep kept in the pariſh in 1793.

Milk

Milk cows, - - -	749
Calves and queys - -	503
Fat cows and young beaſts for the Falkirk market, and the butcher, - -	917
Winterers, being moſtly grazed next ſummer for the butcher - - -	300
Sheep, being moſtly brood ewes, -	1600

Theſe 749 milk-cows are kept by 177 people; there are ten principal dairies, which conſiſt of betwixt 14 to 20 milk cows; the remainder are ſplit down in ſmall dairies, containing from 4 to 10 cows. It is not eaſy to ſay what milk at an average is given per day by the cows of this diſtrict; I ſhould think from 7 to 11 Scotch pints; below 7 they are not thought worth keeping for the dairy: above 11 they are conſidered as remarkable.

About 60 of thoſe perſons who have cows, may be conſidered as tradeſmen and manufacturers; it may be doubted, whether it be of any uſe to ſuch a perſon to keep a cow or not; ſome are apt to imagine that it is calculated to inſtill habits of idleneſs into the minds of their children, who may be employed in herding them by the dykes-ſide: no doubt, it will be conſidered as an eye-ſore by the farmers, to allow the children of tradeſmen to feed their cows on the road-ſide, to the prejudice of his turnips and peaſe; on the other hand, it is of the utmoſt importance to the ſtate at large, that the children of tradeſmen and ſedentary people ſhould be healthy: I know of nothing more calculated to promote that end than plenty of freſh milk. Our milk cows, within theſe 30 years, have increaſed conſiderably in bulk; at an average, if fattened, they would weigh 20 ſtones, Tron weight. In general, they are the breed of Highland bulls; hence they have a tendency to take on fleſh, more than to

give large quantities of milk; at the ſame time it muſt be owned, that the milk is remarkably rich; it being very common for a cow, which only gives 8 Scotch pints per day, to produce nearly a pound of butter from that milk per day. Campſie has been long remarkable for making excellent butter: Till of late, it was only ſkimm'd milk cheeſe which they made, of courſe it was not very rich: Now, however, there are ſeveral dairies, which make cheeſe equal to any from Dunlop; and from the price which they receive for ſuch cheeſe, they conſider this plan as more profitable than to make butter.

There are about 1600 muir-ewes kept in the pariſh, whoſe lambs are ſold to the Glaſgow butcher in the ſeaſon, from 6s. to 8s. per head; they are commonly taken away by the butcher during the month of June, and the firſt two weeks of July. Perhaps we have the beſt ſtock of black faced ewes that are to be met with in Scotland; they are completely muir ewes, and yet they weigh twelve Tron pounds per quarter, twenty two ounces and a half to the pound: They are ſold at a guinea per head when fat; the flock which I allude to belongs to Mr David Dun, grazier, and they are paſtured upon the muir-lands of the eſtate of Kirkton, belonging to John Macfarlane, Eſq; In former times, there were at leaſt 4000 ſheep in the pariſh; they were of two ſorts: the black faced ſheep, with coarſe wool, bought at the market of Kilbryde and Linton; and the ſmall country ſheep, with white and yellow faces, and remarkable fine wool. From what the writer of this account recollects, the country ſheep muſt in a great meaſure have reſembled the Shetland breed:—they were the common breed of the country; it being wedderhogs and Dinmonts alone, which were bought at Kilbryde and Linton market. By ſome ſtrange fatality, this Southland breed hath crept in, though the creature is leſs hardy and

courſer

courſer in the wool; at this moment there is not the ſmalleſt veſtige of our country breed remaining, all the ſtock ewes in the pariſh being black faced and coarſe wooled: Two cauſes have been aſſigned for the total neglect of the native breed: 1ſt, Since the riſe of the fleſh-meat took place, it hath been the object of the graziers to pay more attention to the bulk of the carcaſe than to the fineneſs of the wool. 2dly, About the year 1763, a new mode of grazing was introduced; the face of the hills being appropriated to the feeding of black cattle, it was found that our native breed of ſheep were not fond of the courſe graſs in the muir, conſtantly ſeeking after the ſhort bite on the Campſie Fells, it became abſolutely neceſſary, therefore, if we were to follow this ſyſtem of grazing, to procure ſuch a breed of ſheep as were fitted for the muir ground.

At preſent, the wool in this pariſh I believe to be as good as any wool of the Tweedſmuir breed of ſheep; when ſmeared with tar and butter, it ſells betwixt ſix and ſeven ſhillings per ſtone;—white, as it is termed, ſells at ten ſhillings per ſtone; we expect eight pounds of clean waſhed wool out of the ſtone of that which was ſmeared; and twelve pounds from the white wool. It is chiefly ſold to the country people in the neighbourhood. The grazing of black cattle upon brae ground, is perhaps as well underſtood in this pariſh, as in moſt places of Scotland; above 900 are fed annually in this diſtrict, either for the butcher, or the Falkirk market; perhaps 300 of theſe may be wintered; the remainder bought in at the Whitſunday markets.

The winterers graze in the open fields, during the whole winter ſeaſon, and are fed once or twice a day with coarſe hay, made of ſprats and graſs,—gathered in autumn amongſt the cows feet in their paſture; the graziers commonly begin

to fodder, as they term it, about Christmas, (It is considered as a severe winter, when they are forced to begin before Christmas,) and continue till about the beginning of April, when the cattle refuse it. There are few cattle grazed with us but Highlanders, and we prefer those from Argyleshire, and the isles: North country cattle are rejected, as they are considered by the graziers as sour and difficult to feed: grazing of Highland cattle upon brae-ground in this district, owes much of the perfection to which it has been brought, to Mr David Dun, a native of this parish.—He has spent the better of his life in the profession of a shepherd, grazier, and breeder of cattle; and his countrymen acknowledge, with pleasure, the obligations they are under to him for his skill and attention in these particulars.—He has, with some propriety, been styled the Scotch Bakewell; for several years, he gave 1400 l. *per annum* for grass-lands, and at that time did not so much as grow a cabbage plant; at present, he pays about 800 l. *per annum* on current leases; he has been known, again and again, to sell cattle of the Highland breed, of his own rearing, at twelve and fourteen pounds Sterling *per* head, to the butchers;—he has brought his breed of muir ewes to such perfection, as often to sell his tup-hogs at a guinea *per* head, to the Highland shepherds for brood rams:—He has sold forty or fifty at this rate, in a season. Besides the uncommon skill, which, from long experience, he must have acquired in the judging of cattle and sheep; there are certain uniform principles which he goes upon in grazing, which may be proper to mention: In the 1*st* place, never to stock his land so heavily as his neighbours, or even perhaps as the land could bear; by this means, his cattle have always the choice of grass, and he is enabled to gather enough amongst their feet to fodder them in winter. The cattle by this means are fully fed, which gives him the option of merchants. 2*dly*, By having farms

farms of different complexions, he has it in his power to ſort his cattle in ſuch a manner, as to ſuit each farm.—He has it in his power to vary their food, and to change them from farm to farm, as he perceives them healthy, taking on fleſh, or the contrary. 3*dly*, In the manner of buying his cattle from the Highland dealers, he is very particular: he muſt have the worſt and oldeſt, draughted again and again from the drove, before he will purchaſe it; by this means, he acquires none but healthy cattle; perhaps they may coſt him a few ſhillings more *per* head, but it is ſoon repaid.—Scarcely ever any of his cattle die; and they are ſo evenly, that it is hardly in the power of the butcher to challenge a bad beaſt; by this management, his profits are uniform over the whole head; whereas, when cattle are ſhot, as it is termed, the profits are greately diminiſhed. §

We are not to imagine that the profits of graziers in our brae lands are very great; when the cattle are bought in at Martinmas, and kept for one year in the paſture, two guineas per head is expected as graſs-mail; when bought at the Whitſunday market and kept till Martinmas, one guinea is expected per head; when theſe profits are deficient, it is conſidered as a bad year by the grazier; and when they exceed, it is conſidered as good times. *

Roads.

§ This gentleman hath been unfortunately killed by accident, ſince writing this account. It happened on the 27th of May 1794, as he was attending on ſheep ſhearing:—Leading a ſheep acroſs a wooden bridge, the rail of the bridge gave way; and he was thrown into the river; falling upon a ſtone, he was killed on the ſpot.

* Notwithſtanding the diſtrict of Campſie ſeems to be ſo well adapted for the grazing of cattle, perhaps there are ſome defects attending their plan, which it may be proper to mention: 1*ſt*, It ſeems to be the misfortune of the Scotch in general, and particularly of the people of this diſtrict, that when they

Roads.—Great attention and ſkill have been ſhown in this article; the pariſh is interſected by two great roads, the one a turnpike, leading from the military road at Kippin to Glaſgow, the other from Eaſt to Weſt, joining the great Edinburgh road

they obſerve their neighbours thriving in any profeſſion, they immediately run into it, without conſidering whether they have induſtry or talents to ſucceed; ſuch has, of late, been too much the caſe in the grazing line; ſo that now, the utmoſt induſtry and talents can ſcarcely enable them to live. The country banks afforded abundance of credit to every adventurer; from ſuch a competition amongſt theſe *would-be-graziers*, the graſs-farms are too high rented; the cattle are dear bought from their rearers; and the reſult has been, that notwithſtanding the cry of the goodneſs of the times, very little profit has been made by the people embarked in this profeſſion; for theſe ten years paſt, many bankrupcies have taken place among that claſs of men; It indulges the adventurous ſpirit of the people, and therefore will always be a favourite profeſſion, let the profits be what they will. 2*dly*, The rage for Highland cattle is too great, more ſo than theſe cattle deſerve; it is true, where ground is high and much expoſed, ſuch cattle is more adapted for the paſture, than the cattle which the low country produces; but perhaps it would be the intereſt of the grazier, to turn all our brae ground in ſheep paſture, and the grounds of the valley into graſs farms, for lowland cattle, where, if once winter food were produced, and the land either protected by planting, or ſhades built where they might be fed with turnip in the open air; the proſpects of greater profits upon the fattening of beaſts would be procured, than by the imperfect mode of buying either winterers at the Down markets, or lean cattle at Belting, and ſelling them at Martinmas. 3*dly*, There is another defect which attends the preſent ſyſtem of grazing in this country, and which tends to render the beef of Highland cattle too dear to the conſumer; there being no leſs than three different claſſes of people who muſt have their profits within the year: There is the drover, who collects theſe cattle in ſmall parcels from the rearer, and ſells them at fairs, at an advanced price to the graziers; the grazier, again, very often ſells his cattle to the *couper*, who runs them at fairs to the conſumer, and ſometimes exacts a profit almoſt equal to that of the grazier: In ſhort, there is too much of the ſpirit of adventure in this profeſſion, whereby both the grazier and conſumer are loſers.

road at Auchinreach houſe on the Eaſt, and the turnpike road by Strathblane to Glaſgow, on the the Weſt; beſides theſe two great lines, the turnpike road from Edinburgh to Glaſgow by Falkirk, paſſes through Campſie for two miles; and there are two croſs branches which ſtrike off to Kirkintilloch; ſo that there are in all 20 Engliſh miles of road in this diſtrict, 10 of which are kept up by the converted ſtatute labour: It will be eaſily believed that there are few diſtricts more complicably interſected, and, it may be added, fewer ſtill where the roads are better kept in order. The roads in this diſtrict, before the act for converting the ſtatute labour took place, were miſerable indeed; for although the labour of 101 plough-gates, according to the mode of three days of a man and horſe in ſpring, and as much in autumn for each plough, might appear adequate to the purpoſe; ſtill, from the awkward and careleſs manner in which they wrought, the roads were hardly paſſable in winter; at the ſame time, I am convinced that this was as much owing to the want of ſkill in the overſeers as to the want of dexterity in the labourers. As to any poſitive advantage gained to the public, from the converſion act, 12s. per annum is by no means equal to the labour of ſix days of a man and a horſe. The ſum levied in this pariſh varied exceedingly of late years, owing to the increaſe of inhabitants; every cotter or houſeholder paying 2s. per annum, it hath amounted to 70l. per annum, 50 of which is paid by the farmers and landholders, and the other 20l. by the cottars. Till within theſe 3 years, this ſum was expended in making and repairing, and keeping up 18 out of the 20 miles of road the pariſh contains: Now, by one great line of road being made a turnpike, the whole money will be expended in future, in improving and keeping up 10 miles, and in making ſuch croſs-cuts to the great

great branches, as the farther improvement of the diſtrict ſhall ſuggeſt; one of which improvements is evident to the moſt careleſs obſerver; viz. in cutting a line of road from Campſie kirk to the Crow road, the diſtance is not much more than 600 yards, and yet to the people who travel to Stirling from this part of the county, it muſt ſhorten the road fully 3 miles.

Conſidering that the roads were made upon no determined plan, but ſometimes altering and mending the old lines, as circumſtances occurred, it is wonderful, that in a diſtrict where the ground is ſo uneven, and particularly when it is conſidered that one of the roads croſſes part of a mountain 800 feet high, that there ſhould be ſo few pulls in it; ſeldom or ever is the riſe more ſudden than that of one foot in 20‖.

Upon

‖ As ſometimes it hath been propoſed to carry a turnpike road from Kilſyth to the military road near Buchanan houſe, the ſeat of the Duke of Montroſe, through the ſtraths of Campſie, Strathblane, and Killearn; and if a bridge was thrown over the Leven, at the boat of Ballach, there cannot be the ſmalleſt doubt, that the great line of travelling from the Weſt Highlands to Edinburgh, muſt be through the valley of Campſie, it being much nearer than either by Glaſgow or Stirling: (ſince writing this account, a bill has paſſed, qualifying the heritors of Stirlingſhire to carry this Eaſt and Weſt direction through the valley of Fintray, to the North of Campſie hills, and through the valley on the river Blane. It may not be improper to obſerve here, that the people who grumble moſt in paying money inſtead of the ſtatute labour, are the cottars and tradeſmen; and yet they are the greateſt gainers: They don't recollect, that wherever good roads exiſt, raw materials are eaſily imported, and manufactured articles have ready acceſs to the market: ſuch local advantages, along with the circumſtance of cheap fuel, have been the great reaſons of encouraging manufacturers to ſettle amongſt us: the truth is, the public, or the truſtees for the public, may be ſaid to have made a bad bargain when they agreed (as the act of Parliament expreſſes) to receive two ſhillings from a cottar in lieu of four days labour, although the

Upon the different lines of roads, there are no leſs than 19 ſtone bridges, 4 of which are a-croſs the Kelvin. It may be obſerved, that there are ſeveral old cauſeways in the pariſh, on the line of road leading to the pariſh church, which, tradition ſays, were made by offenders in ancient times, by way of penance; particularly the cauſeways made by the ſeven brothers of the name of M'Donald; theſe ſhew the ſtile in which roads were formed in thoſe early days; as far as can be perceived, they conſiſted of one large whinſtone in the middle, with ſmaller ones on each ſide in rows, the breadth of the road being about ſix feet. There is one radical defect attending the roads of this diſtrict; the ſoil being gravelly, when a ſudden thaw comes after a ſevere froſt in winter, the ground becomes ſo ſpungy, as to be almoſt impaſſable, which can only be rectified by making a layer of beat whinſtone below the water gravel, a practice ſeldom followed. The following table exhibits the ſtate of our roads, and the prices levied at the toll-bar:

	Miles.	£.	s.	d.
Total line of road -	20			
Turnpike road -	10			
Country road - -	10			
Money levied per annum in the pariſh -		70	0	0
From the ploughgates -		50	0	0
From the cottars - -		20	0	0
Price of cattle at the toll-bar -		0	0	0
Horſe and cart - -		0	0	2
Single horſe - - -		0	0	1
The ſcore of cows, ſheep, lambs, &c. -		0	0	5

the act expreſſes, that all thoſe receiving public charity ſhall be exempted; perhaps it might be an improvement, if women and men, after a certain age, ſhould be excuſed from paying pariſh burdens; it would pleaſe them, and the public would not be great loſers by ſuch mitigation.

Manufactures.—At preſent the leading feature of this pariſh is its manufactures: Two very extenſive printfields have been erected within theſe nine years; the one in the 1785, at the French mills, ſtiled the Kincaid printfield, the firm, Henderſon, Semple and Company, upon a farm which they have rented from the laird of Kincaid, at three pound per acre: They have conſtructed not only the moſt elegant machinery for the calico printfield; but have likewiſe completed a ſet of works for the manufacturing all ſorts of grain; the fall at this printfield is 22 feet; the grounds are laid out with great taſte; and in order to obtain ſoft pure water, they have dug a reſervoir of 120 yards in length, and ſeventy in breadth, with a ſmall iſland in the middle, planted with ſhrubs.

The other was erected in the year 1786, containing a farm annexed to it of about thirty acres; likewiſe at three pound per acre, where works uncommonly commodious have been erected: The firm of this ſecond, is Lindſay, Smith and Company; both fields are upon a leaſe of 99 years.

Both theſe works have been carried on with ſpirit, and, it is believed, with conſiderable ſucceſs. Two circumſtances induced the manufacturers to ſettle in this pariſh; viz. plenty of pit-coal, and the uncommon ſupply of water in all ſeaſons; perhaps the circumſtances of being ſituated in the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, and of the Canal, might not a little contribute to fix their choice. There are about 306 perſons, young and old, employed at each field; each employs 37 tables for block printing, and 17 copperplate preſſes; they in general bleach their own cloth for printing.

At the Lennox mill print-field, there is another field laid out for bleaching lawns, which there is every reaſon to believe will ſucceed perfectly well. The work people at the Weſter

field,

field, are commodiouſly lodged at the new village of Lenox-town; and at the Kincaid, or Eaſter Field, ſeveral of the printers have feued ſteadings on the grounds; ſo that there is every probability of a neat village being built, for the convenience of its ſervants: At firſt, (as was to be expected in all new works,) the operative people were a little turbulent; and conſidering that they were a collection from all the different corners of the country, enjoying high wages, and carried away by the licentiouſneſs of the times, their turbulence was not to be wondered at; but that is now all over; and there are ſcarce any works in the country, where the people behave more circumſpectly towards their employers, and are more regular in their deportment.

Theſe public works employ each of them two Exciſe officers; and they pay of revenue to Government about four thouſand pounds each per annum.

It may be proper to notice, that although the wages of calico printers ſeem to be the higheſt of any in the country; no doubt, when the long apprenticeſhip is conſidered, along with the unwholeſome nature of the work, the wages perhaps ſhould be greater than of moſt other operative people; at the ſame time, when it is conſidered, that the higheſt wages do not always make the wealthieſt tradeſman; perhaps, if ſome method could be fallen upon to reduce the prices, both the tradeſman and the public would be gainers.

The following table exhibits the preſent ſituation of one field, as far as is known to the public. There being nearly the ſame workmen at both, the ſame table may apply to each.

Designations.		Wages per week.		
Block Printers . .	36	from	18s. to 21s.	per week.
Copperplates ditto .	22	from	17s. to 21s.	ditto.
Pencillers . . .	160	from	4s. to 6s.	ditto.
Tearing Boys . . .	34		2s.	ditto.
Bleachers	26		8s.	ditto.
Engravers	16	from	18s. to 22s.	ditto.
Miln Wrights . . .	2		12s.	ditto.
Labourers . . .	6		7s.	ditto.
Furnace Men . . .	8		7s.	ditto.
Excise Officers . .	2		50l.	per annum.
Revenue to Government.			800l.	per annum.

It may be observed, that as the greatest number of block printers at each field are apprentices, so, of course, their wages are small in proportion: Their masters are only bound, by their indentures, to allow them 3s. per week, for the first four years, and 4s. per week, the last three years; but, owing to the briskness of trade for some years by gone, it was customary to allow the apprentices to work for as much as they could make, giving them the half of the journeyman's prices; at present, the wages of the calico printers in this district are somewhat fallen, owing to the great number of turn-overs (as they are termed,) from those fields which have stopped payment. Whether this depression of their wages shall continue or not, the ebbs and flows of the trade must determine. These two printfields pay annually about nine thousand pounds Sterling in wages. This parish may now be said to possess a spirit for carrying on manufactures of different sorts; there being no less than 105 operative weavers in it; 9 of which are employed by private families; the remainder weave to the manufactures in Glasgow, and, as far as can be well ascertained,

tained, earn, at an average, from twenty pence to two ſhillings per day. †

Population.

† It will not be improper, to take notice of a ſpecies of manufacture which has exiſted in this pariſh for ſome ages: We know that it was manafactured, to a conſiderable extent, as early as the reign of James the 6th, which goes by the name of the Campſie gray; and was then conſidered as the ſtaple of the country. It may be proper to deſcribe it: It was ſpun about the griſt of nine cuts out of the pound of wool, each cut conſiſting of ſixty threads, ſix quarters long; it was dyed a blue colour in the wool, and wove for a penny farthing the ell, in a ten porter or two hundred reed; they ſeldom made it broader than half an ell and a nail of dreſſed cloth; and they ſold the double ell from half a crown to three ſhillings; ſo that the weaver had for the ſingle yard little more than fifteen pence: It was ſpun by the women in private families during the ſummer; it being cuſtomary for each family to have two of theſe webbs, one of which was got dreſſed againſt Martinmas, and ſold to pay the maſter's rent; the other againſt New-years-day; the profits of which went to ſupply the demands of the family. The fairs of Kilſyth were the great markets for the diſpoſal of theſe gray webs; the ſervant lads uſed to collect from all the neighbouring pariſhs, in order to ſupply themſelves with ſuits of Campſie Gray; which they would eaſily do, at the moderate expence of nine pounds Scots; and perhaps, few countries ever ſupplyed a more cheap, decent, and profitable cloathing for working people—It was all ſpun, as it is termed, upon the *muckle* wheel; and a woman uſed to earn three pence per day beſides her victuals: It would be improper to paſs over the breaking of the gray web, a ſcene of joy and gaiety, which will not ſoon be forgot in this part of the country: If a private family was to have their wool prepared for ſpinning, a number of country laſſes were invited in order to card it; they generally aſſembled in the barn; during the day, a large piece of cheeſe was cut from the kebbock, and wrapt up in a white cloth, and hid by one of the damſels; at the gloming, the young lads uſed to aſſemble, in order to ſearch for this cheeſe, and peculiarly fortunate was that young man conſidered to be, who (having received a watch word from ſome of his fair friends,) found out the cheeſe, and had the opportunity of dividing it amongſt the ſimpering damſels. Both the manufactures and days of innocent amuſement are gone; nor has the manners introduced by public works repaired the loſs; it muſt be owned, however, that ſince manufactures were introduced, there is an uncommon degree of activity which pervades this diſtrict, and which accompanies the people in all their operations; and perhaps, indeed, I would rather be diſpoſed to pronounce the character of the people in this place inclined to merchandiſe and adventure.

Population.—This preſent year, 1793, when the numeration was made, there were 2517 ſouls. The population of this pariſh has increaſed 900, ſince December 1783, the number then being 1627. In Dr Webſter's account it is given up at 1400. From ſeveral facts in the poſſeſſion of the writer of this account, the population of this pariſh ſeems ſomewhat to have deeclined from the Revolution till the year 1763. The chief cauſe which has been aſſigned for this circumſtance, was the throwing ſeveral ſmall tenements together, making one large farm, whereby a number of families were thrown out of bread, and obliged to emigrate to large towns for their daily ſubſiſtence The number of houſeholders or reeks, previous to the 1783, I cannot mark poſitively; in that year there were 317; population then being ſomewhat better than five to a family; in the preſent year, there are 609 houſeholders, or people who keep reeks, ſo that the number of ſouls have not increaſed in the ſame proportion as that of houſeholders: the reaſon is obvious: ſeveral young people, printers and pencillers, at the different printfields, keep houſe, either ſingly, or perhaps, though married, have not as yet more than one child; ſo that the population in this pariſh, even ſuppoſing the houſeholders not to increaſe, is not come to its juſt level. To ſhew the proportions from the Revolution to the year 1763, I have ſubjoined the following table; each ſtatement containing the average of baptiſms for five years:

Years.	Baptiſms.	Average.	Years.	Baptiſms.	Average.
1696	49		1732	32	
1700	47		1733	43	
1701	47		1734	28	
1704	41		1735	44	
1705	49		1736	43	
	—	46		—	38

Years.	Baptiſms.	Average.	Years.	Baptiſms.	Average.
1750	37		1773	33	
1751	51		1774	39	
1752	39			—	37
1753	42		1781	38	
1754	37		1782	40	
	—	41	1783	42	
1760	37		1784	50	
1763	26		1785	46	
1764	44			—	43
1765	34		1789	94	
1766	29		1790	79	
	—	34 *	1791	75	
1770	36		1792	89	
1771	44		1793	115	
1772	35			—	90

It may be obſerved that the regiſter of marriages ſeems to confirm the ſame opinion, that the population had decreaſed from the Revolution to the year 1763 †:

Years.	Marriages.	Average.	Years.	Marriages.	Average.
1696	17		1790	26	
1697	19		1791	34	
1698	22		1792	27	
1706	18		1793	26	
1707	28			—	28
	—	21			

It is not ſo eaſy to aſcertain the average of deaths, as no regiſter ſeems to have been kept, previous to the year 1790, but for theſe laſt four years it ſtands thus:

Years.

* This period ſeems to have been the loweſt, as is likewiſe evident from the regiſter of marriages.

† It appears, as far as the regiſter of marriages is entire, that the number decreaſed to about 12; it is now about 28 annually, as appears from the liſt of the 4 laſt years.

Years.	Deaths.	Average.	Years.	Deaths.	Average.
1790	38		1792	32	
1791	41		1793	34	36

Allowing our regiſters to have been accurately kept, which I believe to be as much the caſe as in moſt country pariſhes; it is evident that they are regulated by no general rule: The ſudden influx of inhabitants have varied theſe regiſters exceedingly. The following table exhibits all the facts relative to the preſent ſtate of population:

Designations, &c.		Of the three laſt years of burials, the diſeaſes ſtand thus:	
Houſeholders,	609	Died of fevers,	8
Inhabitants,	2527	Small-pox,	15
Males,	1234	Conſumptions,	26
Females,	1292	Palſy,	2
Below 10 years,	882	Aſthma,	1
Born in the pariſh,	1334	Chincough,	6
Incomers,	1190	Bowelhive, (vulgarly ſtiled.)	1
Baptiſms,	90	Meaſles,	6
Marriages,	28	Child-bed,	1
Burials,	36	Still-born,	1
Above ninety,	0	Mortification,	1
Above eighty,	5	Old age,	26
Above ſeventy,	100		

What is now ſtiled conſumption, ſeems to have been unknown in this diſtrict about 60 years ago; and I believe generally unknown in Scotland: Many cauſes have been aſſigned for this fact, by medical men. Where people were cloathed in plaiding, which ſomewhat reſembles flannel, as was the caſe till very lately in this diſtrict, and where they ſeldom were confined to work in warm houſes, as is now the caſe, great colds, the forerunners of conſumption, would not eaſily affect them.

Of

Of this population we have ſubjoined the following table, ſhewing how they were employed ſpring 1792

Of the 882 below ten years of age, there were, at the four different ſchools in this pariſh,	200	Block-printers	74
The remaining were infants in their parents houſes, capable of no employment,	682	Stocking-makers	6
The remaining 800 males above ten years of age, are employed in the following manner:		Copperplate preſs-printers	22
Gentlemen who live on their rents	8	Tearing boys	70
Miniſter of the Eſtabliſhment	1	Coalliers	46
Miniſter of a Relief meeting houſe	1	Lime-quarriers	40
Surgeon	1	Hill-men at the different pits	10
Farmers and graziers	96	Carters and Carriers	10
Weavers	105	Labourers	20
Tailors	8	Houſe ſervants to the gentry	11
Houſe-carpenters	11	Farmers and graziers ſervants	90
Miln-wrights	6	Publicans	17
Black-ſmiths in four ſhops	9	Schoolmaſters	4
Shoe-makers	5	Students	4
Exciſe-officers who reſide in the pariſh	2	Grave-digger	1
		Millers	7
		Lint-dreſſers and glovers	7
		Shop-keepers and chandlers	11
		Bleachers	60
		Dyers	16

A TABLE,

Shewing how the 800 *females are employed in* 1793.

Wives to the different houſeholders	410	Midwives	3
Daughters, reſiding in their parents families	170	The remaining ſeventy-one are either widows or unmarried women, who reſide in cot-houſes	71
Sevants in gentlemen's families	26	Of the married women and young perſons, reſiding in their parents houſes, there may be about one hundred and ſixty who pencil calico to the print-fields.	
Menial ſervants to the farmers and different houſeholders in the pariſh	110		
As ſempſtreſſes and mautua makers	12		

Poor.—Every attempt hath been made by the heritors and ſeſſion to diſcourage begging; as yet their efforts have proved abortive; and although at this moment there is not a ſingle perſon in this pariſh underſtood to be a common beggar, we are ſtill peſtered with vagrants. The poor which we countenance as ſuch, generally reſide along with their children, or ſome near relation; they receive their allowance on the firſt Monday of each month; 6s. per month is the higheſt ſum given; none receive leſs than three; at an average there are 20 conſtantly upon our liſt. The funds from which they are paid are the collections at the church door, the mort-cloth fees and proclamation money, together with the intereſt of 570l. of which 500l. is ſecured on heritable property at 5 per cent intereſt, payable twice in the year: The other 70l. is lodged in bank, payable on demand in caſe of an emergency; from thoſe funds we have been able as yet to ſupſupply the wants of our poor. The collections at the ſacrament, including the preparation and the thankſgiving days, are applied to the relief of thoſe indigent houſeholders, whoſe ſituation is not ſo preſſing as to make them objects of the ordinary charity. Although it is believed that the law allows kirk ſeſſions to take poſſeſſion of the effects belonging to the paupers, ſo ſoon as they grant them ſupply; we have anxiouſly avoided being too ſtrict in this particular; for, callous as the relations of the pauper may be, it is ſtill an inducement for them to aſſiſt a little; whereas, if they had no proſpect of ſucceeding to the trumpery, ſmall as it is, the whole care of their relation would be thrown upon the pariſh; and it is well known that 18d. per week is not adequate to all the neceſſities of lodging, clothing, and feeding a pauper. The Engliſh ſyſtem is to ſupport the poor, the Scotch to aſſiſt them.

The

The ſeſſion in this pariſh has hitherto taken the complete management of ſupplying the poor; the heritors meet once in the year, or two years, as it ſuits them, to examine and paſs their accounts; and it may be ſaid here, as in every pariſh in Scotland, that it is the cheapeſt and beſt managed public fund in Great Britain; the only expence incurred with us is of one guinea per annum allowed to the ſeſſion-clerk, for keeping the books. Beſides the public parochial charity, there are two other charitable inſtitutions, which have lately been founded in the pariſh, the one known by the name of the Campſie Benevolent Society, inſtituted in the year 1786, and whoſe capital already amounts to 110l. which Society allows 3s. to its members per week if bed-rid, and 2s. per week if merely incapable of work; the other inſtitution is connected with the Lennox-Kilwinning maſon lodge; its capital is 70l.; it likewiſe allows liberally to its indigent members.

The annual diſburſements by the ſeſſion are between 60 and 70l. Sterling per annum. This pariſh, conſidering its riches and its population, could afford its poor a great deal more, providing an aſſeſſment took place; the mode of proviſion by collections at the church doors, has been conſiderably hurt by a Relief meeting-houſe, which hath lately been erected in the pariſh; the collections made at theſe houſes being either employed to pay their miniſters, or to pay the debts incurred in building their chapels, none is given to ſupport the regular poor; ſuch houſes, therefore, upon their preſent footing, are extremely prejudicial to the Scotch mode of providing for the indigent ‖.

‖ From the opportunity that the writer of this account has had, as a native of this pariſh, of attending to the ſtate of the poor in this diſtrict, he cannot help taking notice of a remarkable trait of the degeneracy of the preſent age.

Of the Church.—Campſie was a parſonage; the parſon of Campſie was the Sacriſtan of the Cathedral of Glaſgow; of courſe, he muſt have been one of the reſidentary canons; he had a houſe in the Ratten-row of Glaſgow, ſaid to be ſtill in exiſtence; and was accuſtomed to ſerve the cure at Campſie by a vicar. As this pariſh, in Roman Catholic times, contained above 150 plough-gates of land, from which the parſon drew tithes; the probability is, that the living was conſiderable.

Attending

age. About 35 years ago, it would have been conſidered as diſgraceful to children to have allowed their parents to be ſupported by the ſeſſion, or even the more diſtant relations of brethren or nephews, to have heard of their ſiſters or uncles caſt upon the box, as they termed it; it is now aſtoniſhing with what greedineſs people receive public charity; they ſomewhat conſider it as a penſion, to which they are entitled. It is not uncommon to perceive children enjoying high wages, and indulging in many of the gaieties of life, neglecting their aged parents: ſuch unnatural conduct was not congenial once with Scottiſh independence, and that dignified pride, which characterized our forefathers, in their more virtuous days. When a pauper dies, it is cuſtomary for the ſeſſion to provide the coffin and winding-ſheet, and mortcloth, gratis. And if there ſhall be no relation of the deceaſed in the pariſh, to contribute for the little entertainment neceſſary at the funeral, which ſeldom happens, 5s. is allowed for ſuch expence. As it might tend to throw more light upon the political ſituation of a country, to examine at what age, and what are the claſs of people of which the paupers of a pariſh are compoſed, I have ſubjoined the following table, comprehending the different periods of admiſſion, and the ſums given.

No. of paupers on our liſt,	25
Of theſe there are females,	16
Males,	9
Above ſixty years of age,	19
The average of the years of their receiving charity,	8
Of this number of paupers, there are no leſs than five facile in their mind,	5
The higheſt ſum given is per month,	6s.
It would appear that it is only the hundredth part of the whole inhabitants who require public charity,	
Of theſe twenty five paupers, eight are unmarried women.	

Attending to that diſtinction of biſhops churches, and menſal churches, it was one of the biſhops churches gifted by Donald, Earl of Lennox, to the See of Glaſgow, in the year 1270. Thoſe who delight in magnifying the riches of the church of Rome, take particular pleaſure in pointing out the yard where the parſon of Campſie's corn-ſtacks were arranged, and the ſite of the mill which was conſtantly employed in grinding his grain. There is reaſon to believe, that he was not the leaſt wealthy heritor of his pariſh. Previous to the Reformation, we know that Lamberton and Beaton were parſons of Campſie, and afterwards both of them biſhops of St. Andrews, men who made ſome figure in their day *.

The

* Since the Reformation, the names of the clergy who filled that charge, and the dates of their admiſſion, have been preſerved in the presbytery records of Glaſgow; and they furniſh us with a pretty good ſpecimen of the ſpirit of the times. There is reaſon to believe, that the clergyman of this pariſh continued Roman Catholic, and occaſionally performed this ſacred function in the pariſh, till the year 1572; he is ſaid to have been a branch of the family of MARR: about that time, we find a Mr William Erſkine, a relation likewiſe of the MARR family, parſon of Campſie; he was afterwards titular Archbiſhop of Glaſgow; he is ſaid never to have been in holy orders: How long he continued parſon of Campſie, we know not; but we find,

1ſt, Mr Stoddart, presbyterian miniſter of Campſie, on the 3d of November 1581.

2d, Mr James Stewart is ſettled aſſiſtant and ſucceſſor the 25th of March 1607.

3d, Mr John Crichton was admitted the 23d of April 1623: He was depoſed for what was called corrupt doctrine: There is a tradition in the pariſh, that he was ſuch a remarkable ſtout, well breathed man, that he could walk in forty minutes to the top of the Campſie Fells, eating a peaſe bannock, to a ſpot which, to this day, goes by the name of Crichton's Cairn.

4th, Mr Alexander Forbes was admitted the 16th of December 1629; and was depoſed for not conforming to the Synod of Glaſgow, on the third of April 1639.

5th,

The progreſs of the ſtipends of this pariſh, I have not been able to aſcertain accurately prior to the year 1618: It is then declared to be two chalders of meal and 600 merks: In the year

5th, Mr John Collins was admitted the 2d of November 1641; he was murdered in returning from the presbytery about Martinmas 1648; the ſuſpicion fell upon the laird of Balglaſs, a ſmall heritor in the pariſh, who was obliged to fly the country to avoid puniſhment.

6th, Mr Archibald Denniſton was ordained the 30th of March 1649: He was depoſed by the proteſters in 1655, about which depoſition Principal Baillie, in his letters, makes the following remark: He was reſtored in the year 1661, and died 1679; there is a traditionary anecdote mentioned of him, which ſomewhat marks the character of the man.—In the year 1655 he had begun a diſcourſe on a text, and half finiſhed the firſt head.—In the year 1661, when reſtored, he took up the ſecond, prefacing his diſcourſe, by ſaying, that the times were altered, but that the doctrines of the goſpel are always the ſame.

Principal Baillie, in his letters, ſpeaking of Mr Denniſton ſays, "he was "depoſed by the proteſters in 1655; for his part, he ſaw nothing evil of the "man. The proteſters, ſays he, put in his room a Mr John Law, a *poor baxter callon*, who had but lately left his trade, and hardly knew his grammar; "but they ſaid he was *gifted*."

7th, Mr John Law was ordained by the proteſters in 1656: He was ejected 1661, and was reſtored 1688; he never officiated again in Campſie.

8th, Mr George Miln was inſtituted 24th June 1681: He was turned out at the Revolution, and was exceedingly ill uſed; the worthleſs part of the pariſh having riſen in a mob and broke his furniture, and threatened his perſon; this gentleman, however, by way of retaliation, carried away the records of the pariſh.

9th, Mr John Govan, who had been impriſoned in the Baſs, in James the 7th's time, was ordained miniſter of Campſie on the 5th of December 1688; he died a batchelor the 17th of September 1729.

10th, He was ſucceeded by his nephew Mr John Forreſter, a brother of Forreſter's of Dinovan; he died in September 1731, at the age of 25.

11th, He was ſucceeded by Mr John Warden, a ſon of the miniſter of Gargunnock; he was ordained the 3d of April 1732; which gentleman was tranſlated to Perth, and afterwards to the Canongate of Edinburgh. He was ſucceeded by Mr William Bell, a native of Eclesfechan, Dumfriesſhire; who

was

year 1649, an augmentation of a chalder of meal, and one hundred pounds Scots, was granted; and in the 1785, a new augmention was granted; ſo that the ſtipend now is 80 l. Sterling in money, two chalders of meal, and one chalder of barley: It would appear, that very ſoon after the act paſſed, ordaining glebes to the reformed clergy, that four acres and a half of arable land was allocated to the miniſter of Campſie: In the year 1646, when a disjunction and annexation took place, three acres and a half more were allocated for paſture; but, owing to the turbulence of the times which followed, the miniſter never ſeems to have been in poſſeſſion of them; ſo that at preſent the glebe of Campſie is deficient in paſture; the heritors, about 30 years ago, bought an acre of land, adding it to the four acres and half, without ſpecifying whether it was in part of paſture or not. Till lately, it was cuſtomary for the miniſter to uſe ſome overt act to prevent preſcription running againſt him, anent the three acres and a half which had been allocated for paſture. For ſome time after the Reformation, it would appear that the clergyman had lived in the vicar's houſe. In 1627, a houſe was built alenarly for the purpoſe of lodging the miniſter; it was a ſmall houſe of two ſtories, thatched with ſtraw: In 1727, a new houſe was built on the ſame ſite; which houſe, along with the offices, was repaired in the year 1785, at the very moderate expence of one hundred and twenty nine pounds. The church

conſiſted

was ordained the 24th of September 1747, and died the 8th of May 1783.

13*th*, He was ſucceeded by the preſent incumbent. Thirteen clergymen have therefore officiated in this pariſh ſince the Reformation, at leaſt ſince the year 1582; which, at an average, is nearly 16 years to each incumbent; but what is very aſtoniſhing, out of that number no leſs than five were ejected on account of the turbulence of the times, and one ſaid to have been murdered; facts, which ſhould lead us to value the peaceable and happy times in which we live.

conſiſted originally of three parts: 1*ſt*, What they called the kirk; 2*d*, the quire; and, 3*d*, the veſtry; which correſponded to the uſes required in the Roman Catholic times; it was repaired in the year 1772: At preſent it would be by far too ſmall for the pariſh, if a relief meeting-houſe had not been erected. The kirk of Campſie, like moſt of the churches in popiſh times, is ſituated at the end of the pariſh; whether this was from accident, or from choice of the clergy, to fix it in the moſt deſireable ſpot, is not eaſy to determine. If, however, the population of this diſtrict continues to increaſe, there will be an abſolute neceſſity of building a more commodious church in a more centrical ſpot, for the better accommodation of the inhabitants. I obſerved, that in the 1649 there was a disjunction and an annexation of conſiderable portions of this pariſh to Kilſyth and Baldernock; it appears, however, by a diſpute which lately took place betwixt the miniſter of Baldernock and the heritors of Campſie, anent the augmentation of the ſtipend of Baldernock, that the part disjoined was only annexed *quoad ſacra*; and the probability is, that the proportion annexed to Kilſyth is in the ſame predicament. All the lands in the pariſh are now valued, and the free unpropriated tithe is better than 600 l. Sterling annually, as the fund from which the clergymen may have future augmentations. Mr Campbell of Shawfield is titular, in virtue of his being the purchaſer of the eſtate of Kilſyth, from the creditors of the York-building There is an opinion entertained by ſome people, that if an act of Parliament does not render all miniſters ſtipendiaries, that on account of certain peculiar circumſtances, the miniſter of Campſie is ſtill titular of the tithes.

The duties of this pariſh conſiſt in viſiting and regularly examining the congregation once in the year, beſides preaching three diſcourſes every ſunday, from the 10th of April till the

the 10th of October; and in winter, two diſcourſes, one of them always a lecture: The ſacrament is given once in the year; three diſcourſes on the faſt day, two on Sunday, two on Monday: The action ſermon in the church, and the evening ſermon; beſides preaching at the tent. People have complained, that the tent preaching was prejudicial: I am inclined to believe the contrary from experience: 1*ſt*, On account of its bringing a conſiderable collection for the poor; and, 2*dly*, it accuſtoms a number of people to meet together in a decent, cheerful, and reſpectable manner.—I have never heard either the ſober, or the ſerious, or the induſtrious, complain; and conſidering the ſimplicity of our ſervice, in moſt other reſpects, I have all along been accuſtomed to conſider theſe public religious meetings as beneficial to the manners of the country. The eccleſiaſtical diſcipline of this pariſh is ſtill kept up. As for diſcipline againſt fornicators, two days doing public penance in the church, are required, beſides a fine of a crown, for each guilty perſon, to the poor. There has been an opinion entertained, that this public penance has been productive of very bad effects in ſociety; ſo far has an idea gone forth of this ſort, that, for this reaſon, ſome writers have pretended to ſay, that ſo long as doing public penance was permitted, no perſon ſhould be put to death for child murder: I am inclined to believe, that it would be much more the intereſt of the community, in a political light, that the laws of diſcipline ſhould be more rigidly adhered to; for if once the vulgar of any country, conſider incontinency as a venial fault, they are almoſt ready for the commiſſion of any crime; and as I can eaſily ſee, that the ſhame of doing penance operates to deter others; in this point of view, it is to be conſidered as anſwering the ends of edification. Public baptiſm is regularly adhered to; parents requiring pri-

vate baptism for their children, pay half a crown to the poor.

Schools.—There are in this parish two established schools. The parish school was erected in the year 1661, according to the form therein required, under the patronage of John, Archbishop of Glasgow; the legal salary was fixed at 100 pounds Scots: It is remarkable, that in the deed of erection, there is an express clause, declaring, that the schoolmaster, in all time coming, should teach Latin; and that the school should be constantly held at the Clachan of Campsie. There was another school erected in 1727, on a mortification of fifty pounds, left by one Young, a pedlar in Gloucestershire: It is situated at the distance of four English miles from the other. The heritors of Campsie have, somehow or other, permitted the half of the salary belonging to the parish schoolmaster, to be added to the further emolument of this school, of the eastern district.—It is to be expected, in a little time, this mistake will be rectified, and that the parish schoolmaster will receive his legal salary; and, at the same time, the other schoolmaster be sufficiently provided. Besides these two schools, there was a third erected lately at the new villiage of Campsie, for the benefit of the inhabitants; the teacher has no salary: at the same time, they have always found teachers ready to accept the office upon the bare emolument of the school wages: In the summer season, in the South quarter of the parish, there is commonly a fourth school taught by some young man from Glasgow, who finds it convenient to keep school during the vacation of the College; so that at, an average, there are somewhat above 200 children educated annually in the parish: There are at least one fifth part at school of those who are below twelve years of age. The inhabitants of this parish are, upon the whole, rather

rather diſpoſed to give their children a good education; at the time this account was wrote, there were thirteen Latin ſcholars at the two pariſh ſchools; the other children are certain of being taught to read Engliſh, write and caſt accompts; the common ſtyle of education is carried on in the following manner: They learn the ſounds of the letters, and the union of ſyllables, in the ſmall ſpelling book; then they receive the large ſpelling book; then they get the New Teſtament, and the Bible, in which they commonly read ſome time; and then the Collection: they get a queſtion in the common catechiſm to repeat every morning: there is a public repetition on Saturday, with a pſalm on Monday. There being ſeveral public works in the pariſh, the night-ſchool is conſiderable, being wholly made up of grown perſons, who attend for the purpoſes of writing and arithmetic, &c. The wages are fixed for the pariſh ſchools by the heritors and ſeſſion, at 1s. 6d. per quarter for children, half-a-crown for writing and arithmetic, and 3s. for Latin per quarter, beſides what they voluntarily give as a new-year's-gift. It is evident that the encouragement is too low; perhaps it would be the intereſt of Government that they ſhould have ſome little addition of ſalary given to them; let the wages remain as low as poſſible, to induce the people to ſend their children to ſchool; from this circumſtance of the want of encouragement, and likewiſe from being in the neighbourhood of an Univerſity, from whence ſtudents come to be our ſchoolmaſters, who have farther proſpects, there have been no leſs than thirteen ſchool-maſters in the pariſh ſchool, ſince the year 1759. Upon the whole, I would ſtyle the common education of Scotland, partly religious, and partly philoſophical; It would not be our intereſt to ſee it violently broken in upon; it is this mode of education which gives the Scotch nation ſuch an attachment to ſpeculation in religion; it is only following out what they have been taught in the early period of their

lives. There are in this pariſh, three ſtudents of divinity, one preacher and two gown ſtudents *.

Character, Morals, Genius, &c.—The inhabitants of this diſtrict, during the laſt, and early part of this century, were ſomewhat conſpicuous for drinking and fighting with their neighbours: If any perſon in this pariſh, however mean his ſituation, had received an injury or affront from an inhabitant of another pariſh; his neighbours conſidered themſelves bound to ſupport him, and to avenge his quarrel: ſuch conduct, however, ſeems to have proceeded more from pride and

* The peculiar cuſtoms of this pariſh are faſt wearing out. It was cuſtomary, till within theſe few years, when any head of a family died, to invite the whole pariſh: They were ſerved on boards in the barn, where a prayer was pronounced before and after the ſervice, which duty was moſt religiouſly obſerved: The entertainment conſiſted of the following parts: *Firſt*, there there was a drink of ale, then a dram, then a piece of ſhort bread, then another dram of ſome other ſpecies of liquor, then a piece of currant-bread, and a third dram, either of ſpirits or wine, which was followed by loaves and cheeſe, pipes and tobacco: This was the old funeral entertainment in the pariſh of Campſie, and was ſtiled their ſervice; and ſometimes this was repeated, and was then ſtiled a double ſervice; and it was ſure of being repeated at the dredgy. A funeral coſt, at leaſt, a hundred pounds Scots, to any family who followed the old courſe. The moſt active young man was pointed out to the office of ſerver; and in thoſe days, while the manners were ſimple, and at the ſame time ſerious, it was no ſmall honour to be a ſerver at a burial. However diſtant any part of the pariſh was from the place of interment, it was cuſtomary for the attendants to carry the corpſe on hand ſpokes. The mode of invitation to the entertainment, was by ſome ſpecial meſſenger; which was ſtiled bidding to the burial, the form being nearly in the following words: You are deſired to come to ſuch a one's burial to morrow, againſt ten hours. No perſon was invited by letter: and though invited againſt ten of the clock, the corpſe was never interred till the evening; time not being ſo much valued in thoſe days. It was cuſtomary for them to have at leaſt two lyke-wakes (the corpſe being kept two nights before the interment) where the young neighbours watched the corpſe, being merry or ſorrowful, according to the ſituation or rank of the deceaſed.

and ruſtic gallantry, than from a ſettled malevolence of diſpoſition. The more improved manners, and a more general intercourſe with ſociety, have, in a great meaſure, done away this turbulent diſpoſition; ſtill the natives of Campſie may be conſidered as a keen tempered people, by no means averſe to expoſe themſelves to bodily danger at any time: the young people have no objection to a military life, being fond of novelty and adventure; during the preſent war, no leſs than 28 have enliſted in the land ſervice, and ſeven have entered on board the navy; theſe remarks chiefly apply to the lower claſs of people. The gentry, for at leaſt theſe 40 years, have been remarkable for their ſobriety, decent behaviour, and œconomical habits; of courſe, they are all in proſperous circumſtances; rigid œconomy was not the virtue of their forefathers *.

Eminent

* About ten years ago, the ſudden tranſition from ſtrict to looſe manners was felt very remarkably in this pariſh; a number of wandering people, from different parts of the kingdom, having ſettled amongſt us at the different printfields:—people, to ſay no worſe of them, not over attentive to regularity of conduct; theſe perſons, however, have now for the moſt part, left the place. The more ſober and induſtrious have been retained; the younger part of the workmen being now natives of the pariſh, and more immediately under the eye of their parents and relations—I conſider therefore the morals of the manufacturing part of the community, as more regular than they were even five years ago.

The people of Campſie cannot be ſaid to be of a litigious diſpoſition: It is true, from their apparent keenneſs, you would be apt to imagine that they ſhould be conſtantly engaged in lawſuits.—The reverſe is the caſe: The higher born and better informed claſs of people, ſtudiouſly avoid litigation. Amongſt the other deſcription of the inhabitants, much threatening, and a few haſty words, generally terminate the diſpute. Neither writer nor meſſenger at arms reſide in the pariſh; at the ſame time, conſidering the number of the tranſactions which muſt inevitably take place in a rich and populous diſtrict, (even though no law-ſuit intervenes) a great deal of buſineſs is afforded to both profeſſions. Although I could not take upon me to ſay that the inhabi-

tants

Eminent Men.—This pariſh has produced no eminent men whoſe hiſtory hath arreſted the attention of world, except Mr Bell of Antermony, a gentleman well known to the learned, on account of his travels to China and Perſia; this gentleman poſſeſſed an uncommon faculty for ſpeaking the modern languages of Europe; nor was he leſs remarkable for an amiable ſimplicity of manners, in private life, and the moſt ſacred regard to truth in all he ſaid or did. He was a native of Campſie, having inherited a conſiderable paternal eſtate: he died in the 1780, at the venerable age of 89.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—Proviſions of every ſort in this pariſh are regulated by the Glaſgow prices; the common people have ſuch an inveterate cuſtom of carrying their eggs, poultry, and butter, to town, that we could often buy theſe articles cheaper at the croſs of Glaſgow than in the pariſh of Campſie. I have ſubjoined a table of the prices of proviſions and of labour, for the year 1794.

	L.	s.	d.
Ducks per pair - -	0	3	0
Hens per pair - - -	0	3	4
Eggs per dozen, for four months 8d; for eight months, 6d. - -	0	0	6
Chickens per pair, ready for the ſpit -	0	1	4
Butter per Tron lb. 9d; during two months 11d.	0	0	9
Butter-milk per Scotch pint - -	0	0	½
Potatoes per peck, corn meaſure - -	0	0	4½

Beſt

tants of this diſtrict are fond of literary purſuits, it would be doing them injuſtice, if I did not ſay they were people of capacity and genius; at the ſame time, the tendency of their mind is rather towards an active than a contemplative life.

	L.	s.	d.
Beſt beef per lb. Tron weight, at an average	0	0	6
Ditto ditto in the ſpring months from 7d. to 8d.			
Lamb per quarter, at an average in the ſeaſon	0	1	8
Fed veal no fixed price			
Oat meal, per peck, at an average theſe two years	0	1	2½
Barley at an average per boll - - -	0	18	6
Straw per thrave for thatching - -	0	3	6
Cheeſe of ſkimmed milk per ſtone -	0	4	6
Tarry-wool per ſtone - - -	0	7	0
White-wool per ſtone - -	0	10	0

Milk new milked per mutchkin ½, and ſkimmed, at ½ per choppin.

It will appear, that living of all ſorts is equally dear with any of the great towns in the kingdom; and, I believe, from the following table, that labour will appear equally high.

	L.	s.	d.
Wages of a man ſervant per half year with board, &c.	5	0	0
Wages of a woman per half year, including ditto,	2	10	0
A common labourer per day, 1s. 4d. in ſummer; in winter 1s. 2d.—average,	0	1	3
Taylor, beſides board per day, -	0	0	10
Servants at the printfields per day, during the whole year - - - - -	0	1	0
Miln-wright, - - - -	0	1	8
Maſon, per day, -	0	1	10
Horſe and cart per day, -	0	3	6
Digging ground, building dykes and ditching, is done at ſo much per piece, equally high with any part of Scotland,			
Women ſpin wool per day, with victuals,	0	0	4
Linen yarn ſpun out of the houſe per ſpindle,	0	1	6
Digging potatoes per peck, corn meaſure,	0	0	0½

Bark

	L.	s.	d.
Bark-peelers per day, -	0	0	10

The hire of women per day is regulated by the prices given at the printfield.

Appearance of the Inhabitants, and Diſeaſes.—The inhabitants of this diſtrict may be conſidered as uncommonly healthy; they are a clean limbed, well made people, rather lean of fleſh, in general from five feet ſeven to ſix feet high; one half of the young men being above five feet ten, ſcarcely any above ſix feet: There are a few who live to a very great age; although, in general, the heads of families live to the age of ſeventy; which circumſtance would induce me to ſtyle the place more healthy than if we found extraordinary inſtances of longevity: there is one circumſtance to be taken notice of, which is, the uncommon number of accidental deaths, being ſomewhat more than two per annum; during the laſt ten years there were no fewer than twenty three. †

A TABLE, *pointing out the manner of their deaths.*

† Killed in a coal pit by the choak damp, July 1783,	3
Killed in a coal pit February 1785, by damp,	5
Killed by falling down a coal pit,	3
Killed by the ſtroke of a horſe,	1
Killed by the machinery of the different milns,	3
Killed in a quary,	1
Killed by a falling of a tree when cut down,	1
Killed by a the fall from a bridge,	1
Killed by the ſtorms when travelling through Campſie Fells,	2
Drowned,	3

Of courſe, one eighteenth part of the deaths in this pariſh may be ſtyled accidental; and if we were to carry back the calculation for thirty years, there would be found the ſame proportion

Antiquities.—There are few in this diſtrict which merit deſcription, except two Caledonian Forts; and even theſe ſcarcely arreſt the attention, unleſs ſo far as they prove that the Caledonians choſe to occupy places of ſtrength directly oppoſite to the Roman wall, no doubt with the deſign of watching the motions of the legionaries.—Theſe mounds are perfectly circular, with regular foſſes; the one is ſtyled the *Meickle Reive*, in the language of the country, and is about a hundred yards in diameter: The other is ſtyled the *Maiden Caſtle*, about twenty yards diameter: They are both ſituated at the foot of the Campſie Fells, to which the natives could eaſily fly, if attacked; and ly due North, at the diſtance of two computed miles, from the peel of Kirkintilloch, ſaid be be one of the chief Roman ſtations on the wall.

There have been ſeveral urns found in the pariſh, containing aſhes and burnt bones; the urns were about five inches in depth, and fifteen in diameter; made of courſe clay, apparently baſked in the ſun; a ſpecies of freize work encircles the lower edge; they have been found in cairns, generally placed between two flags.

It may not be improper to mention, that Campſie, (before the disjunction and annexation took place,) extended for eleven Engliſh miles along the Roman wall; and, of courſe, many ſkirmiſhes muſt have taken place in this ſtrath, betwixt the legionaries and Caledonians: after a particular examination of the country, I have not the ſmalleſt doubt, but that the ſecurity of this Roman barrier, depended more upon the almoſt impaſſable ſwamp formed on the North ſide, than on the ſtrength of its forts; even at this day, it would be no difficult matter to lay the whole valley under water from Bonny, to Balmully bridge, where Graham's dyke croſſes the river Kelvin: And the names of the different farms in Camp-

ſie, ſuch as Inchwood, Inchterf, Inchbreak, and Inchbelly, evidently point out, that they were once ſurrounded by water: Inch, it is ſaid in the Gaelic language, ſignifies an iſland: thus, the Caledonians would find it impoſſible to approach the wall on foot; and it is preſumed, that the moraſs was not ſufficiently covered by water, to permit them to croſs it in boats. Many people, unaquainted with the ſituation of the country, have expreſſed ſurpriſe that the Caledonians were ſo ignorant of the art of war, as to be unable, for ſo long a time, to penetrate through Antoninus's wall; the truth is, it could not be attacked, but at the extremities. The natives found it eaſier to paſs over the Friths of Forth and Clyde, than to get acroſs the almoſt impaſſable ſwamp oppoſite to Graham's Dyke; ſo that when any incurſions were made into the Roman province, it is ſcarcely poſſible to conceive that theſe inroads could take place from that quarter which is now known by the name of the pariſh of Campſie; from the top of the Barrhill, where there was a conſiderable Roman Fort, any perſon at this day, taking a view of the country, will concur in the above opinion.

About five years ago, a conſiderable quantity of ſilver coin, chiefly of the coinage of Elizabeth, James and Charles I, mixt with a number of Daniſh and Dutch pieces, were found by one of the *portioners* of the lands of Birdſton, when digging a ditch through a moraſs; they were ſuppoſed to have been hid in the moraſs, about the time when the battle of Kilſyth was fought betwixt Montroſe and the Covenanters; the marauding parties of Montroſe's army having ſtretched as far Weſt as Birdſton, the inhabitants, flying from their depredations, muſt have hid this treaſure, and have forgot where it was depoſited, when they came afterwards to ſearch for it.

Miſcellaneous

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—It may be here proper to mention a remarkable fact, which marks very much the turbulence of the times, and the impotence of the laws, ſo late as they ear 1744. The father of the preſent miniſter of Campſie paid *black mail* to M'Grigor of Glengyle, in order to prevent depredations being made upon his property; M'Grigor engaging, upon his part, to ſecure him from ſuffering by any *hardſhip*, as it was termed; and he faithfully fulfilled the contract; engaging to pay for all ſheep which were carried away, if abone the number ſeven, which he ſtyled *lifting*; if below ſeven, he only conſidered it as a piking; and for the honour of this warden of the Highland march, Mr John Lapſlie having got fifteen ſheep lifted in the commencement of the year 1745, Mr M'Grigor actually had taken meaſures to have their value reſtored, when the rebellion broke out, and put an end to any further payment of *black mail*, and likewiſe to Mr M'Grigor's ſelf created wardenſhip of the Highland borders.

The laſt inſtance in this diſtrict of a Baron of Regality exerciſing the juriſdiction of pit and gallows over his dependents, is ſaid to have been exerciſed by the Viſcount of Kilſyth, in the 1793; having condemned one of his own ſervants to be hanged for ſtealing ſilver plate from the houſe of Bancloich: the fellow was executed upon a hill on the barony of Bancloich, ſtyled the Gallow-hill; a part of the gibbet was lately found lying in a ſwamp, adjoining to this field of blood.

Lunardi, an Italian, the celebrated aeronaut, alighted from one of his aerial excurſions in Campſie; having aſcended in a balloon from St Andrew's church yard, in the city of Glaſgow, upon the 5th of December 1785. At two o'clock in the afternoon, he deſcended in this pariſh, at twenty minutes

paſt two, the diſtance being about ten miles; the ſpot where the baloon firſt touched the ground was upon the property of Sir Archibald Edmonſton, Baronet, of Duntreath, on the farm of Eaſter Muckcroft.

Although this pariſh has been always conſpicuous for its attachment to its ſovereign; whether of the Stewart family, as in the laſt century, or of the Hanoverian family, as in the preſent century; having raiſed a militia both in the years 1715 and 1745,—ſtill I cannot help taking notice, in this Statiſtical Account of a remarkable fact relative to the conduct of ſome of the inhabitants of this diſtrict, which one would almoſt ſay contradicts the opinion of their loyalty. In the midſt of the moſt profound peace, and, I may ſay, of the moſt unparalelled proſperity; all at once, as it were by inchantment, the operative part of this community conceived themſelves to be groaning under the moſt abject ſlavery. They immediately aſſociated themſelves under the appellation of the Friends of the People: The firſt ſociety was conſtituted at the Milton of Campſie, I think, upon Thurſday the 8th of November 1792; the ſecond was conſtituted at New Birbiſton of Campſie, the Saturday thereafter: Two other ſocieties were attempted to be formed in other parts of the pariſh: I believe, however, they did not ſucceed: The two former met often, kept books, ſubſcribed ſmall ſums of money for purchaſing political pamphlets, and ſent delegates to the different Conventions met at Edinburgh. Concerning the impropriety of ſuch ſocieties, the laws of our country hath already given ample teſtimony. It may not be improper, however, in the Statiſtical Account of this pariſh, to give ſome deſcription of the people which compoſed theſe ſocieties: They were chiefly formed from amongſt the journeymen and apprentices at the different print-fields, and a few operative weavers in the village of New Birbiſton, moſtly

lads

lads from 17 years of age to 30: There might be amongſt them a few half educated people, whoſe vanity conſiſted in raiſing the aſtoniſhment of their more ignorant companions, by a detail of political grievances, which had never entered into the hearts of the other to conceive; various cauſes co-operated to render Campſie a proper hot-bed for ſuch folly.

In the *firſt* place, a conſiderable degree of licentiouſneſs had begun to prevail in this diſtrict, owing to high wages; and as the influx of ſuch wealth had been rather ſudden, due ſubordination of rank was almoſt totally forgot. In the *ſecond* place, a Relief meeting, about 10 years ago, being erected in this pariſh, which had drawn off a conſiderable number of people from the Eſtabliſhment, and rendered them, in ſome meaſure, hoſtile to the the powers that be; and I am doubtful but the ſpirit of innovation was encouraged in a certain degree, by their public teachers, with a view to increaſe the adherents to their own tabernacle. In the *third* place, Mr Muir, advocate, the unfortunate gentleman who was tried for ſedition, having ſome connexions, and being well acquainted in the place, was naturally induced to try the power of his eloquence upon the inhabitants; and he ſucceeded. If to theſe cauſes we add the particular circumſtance of the character of young people at the different printfields; men, who have abundance of time in the evenings to cabal together; men, too, from their profeſſion, rather given to wandering, and fond of novelty, and ſomewhat naturally addicted to form aſſociations againſt their maſter's authority; we will not be ſurpriſed that Campſie ſhould be ſo often mentioned as friendly to theſe Jacobin ſocieties.

Nevertheleſs, I am entitled to ſay, that the farmers and the inhabitants in general, (there being no fewer than 2527 people in the pariſh,) were remarkable for their loyalty, and attatchment to Government: They very early formed themſelves

ſelves into conſtitutional ſocieties, for the defence of Government, and publiſhed reſolutions. Notwithſtanding all the buſtle which was occaſioned by their folly, the different Jacobin ſoceities in this pariſh altogether, never contained above ſixty perſons.

Relative Situation of the Pariſh.—If we compare the ſituation of the inhabitants this year with certain periods, either in the beginning or middle of this century, it will appear remarkably improved. I have ſubjoined a table, containing the moſt remarkable facts, relative to pariſh œconomics, taken at four different periods: The two firſt I cannot ſpeak of from my own obſervations; at the ſame time, from the opportunities I have had of being made acquainted with them, as a native of this pariſh, I can affirm that the facts are fairly ſtated.

Year 1714.

1*ſt*, Only three cows ſaid to have been killed for winter beef in the whole pariſh, the gentry excepted.

2*d*, The wages of a man-ſervant for half-a-year, 9l. Scots; ſome of the beſt get 12l. Scots; a woman-ſervant, 6l. Scots for half-a-year.

3*d*, No wheaten bread eat in the pariſh.

4*th*, No incloſure whatever in the pariſh, except about gentlemen's gardens or woods.

5*th*, No cart or chaiſe; the gentry rode to church on horſeback.

6*th*, All broad ploughs, the horſes yoked abreaſt.

7*th*, The men wore bonnets and plaids, and plaiding waiſtcoats, and plaiding hoſe; no Engliſh cloth whatever was worn by the inhabitants, the gentry excepted.

Year

Year 1744.

1*ſt*, The better ſort of farmers joined and got a cow for a winter mart, betwixt two of them; the price then being thirty five or forty ſhillings only for a fat cow.

2*d*, No chaiſe was as yet kept in the pariſh; ſome few carts, but theſe were only uſed to carry out manure in the ſpring; the wheels were not ſhod with iron; and the moment the manure was carried out, theſe timber wheels were taken down till next ſpring.

3*d*, Perhaps about five or ſix incloſures were made in the pariſh: it muſt be owned, though few, they were moſt ſubſtantially built; they remain entire and firm to this day.

4*th*, No wheaten bread, no Engliſh cloth uſed by the inhabitants.

5*th*, A man ſervant's wages were from thirty ſhillings to two pounds per half year; a woman's, from nine pound Scots to one pound Sterling; ſervants in this period uniformly got a pair of hoſe and ſhoes beſides their fee.

6*th*, No potatoes, carrots, or turnips, &c. were uſed by the inhabitants, only a few kail were planted in their yards, for the pot.

Year 1759.

1*ſt*, Carts were become more numerous, there being then about twenty in the pariſh, their wheels ſhod with iron.

2*d*, The broad plough ſtill continued in many places, though, in general, the horſes were now yoked, two and two; ſtill there were no fanners for the milns or barns, the farmers being obliged to winnow the corn in the fields.

3*d*, A man-ſervant came now to receive fifty ſhillings and three pounds Sterling per half year; and a woman twenty five or thirty ſhillings only per half year.

4*th*, There were now two wheeled chaiſes in the pariſh; and Engliſh cloth began to be worn occaſionally by the better

ter ſort of people, along with worſted ſtockings, and buckles in their ſhoes.

5*th*, Potatoes ſtill were only cultivated in *lazy* beds.

6*th*, Very decent farmers thought it neceſſary to have ſome part of a fat cow or a few ſheep ſalted up for winter ſtore.

7*th*, By the leaſes granted by the proprietors of land at this time, the tenants were taken bound to incloſe ſome part of the farm; ſtill there was no ſown graſs in the pariſh, and the cattle grazed promiſcouſly in the winter ſeaſon.

8*th*, There were no clocks in the pariſh, except in the houſes of the gentry and principal inhabitants.

Year 1794.

1*ſt*, There are nearly two hundred carts in the pariſh, perfectly equipped for any draught.

2*d*, There are four poſt-chaiſes, and three coaches, and one two wheeled chaiſe, kept by the gentry, in the proper ſtyle.

3*d*, The wages of a man-ſervant is betwixt five pounds and ſix pounds per half year; and a woman's from two to three pounds ditto.

4*th*, Potatoes is now univerſally uſed by all ranks of people, for at leaſt ſix months in the year.

5*th*, Wheaten bread is now univerſally uſed by every deſcription of people; there being no leſs than two bakers ſtationary in the pariſh, beſides ſome hundred pounds value of wheaten bread brought annually from Kirkintilloch and Glaſgow.

6*th* There have been near three hundred fat cows killed annually about the Martinmaſs time for winter proviſion; beſides the mutton, beef, and lamb, killed through the ſeaſon, by two butchers reſiding in the pariſh.

7*th*,

7th, Every lad now dreſſes in Engliſh cloaths and fancy veſts, with thread or cotton ſtockings; and every girl in cotton ſtuff, black ſilk cloaks and fancy bonnets.

8th, The quantity of liquor drunk in the ſeventeen public houſes in this pariſh muſt be very great indeed; as, I have been told that four and five pounds, at a *reckoning*, have been collected from a company of journeymen and apprentices on a pay night.

9th, The houſes of every decent inhabitant of this pariſh, conſiſt at leaſt of a kitchen and one room, generally two rooms, ceiled above, and often laid with deal floors, with elegant glaſs windows; and I believe, few of the tradeſmen ſit down to dinner without fleſh meat on the table, and malt liquor to drink: Such is the relative ſituation of a pariſh in the year 1794, when ſome deſigning people uſed every effort to convince them, that they were poor, and miſerable, and *enſlaved*.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The advantages of this pariſh have been conſidered as of a very ſuperior kind: The ſoil is naturally dry; the ſtreams of water for bleaching and driving machinery are numerous; the quantity of coal and lime is inexhauſtible; it is completely interſected by excellent roads; and, it is believed, that it is able to ſupply itſelf with all the neceſſaries of life; and, conſidering the number of ſtrangers which take up their reſidence amongſt us, we are led to believe, that few places are more comfortable to the inferior claſs of people; Glaſgow affording a ready market for the produce both of their farms and their induſtry.

On the other hand, it may be conſidered as one of the dearеſt places in Scotland for all ſorts of living, and particularly ſo for thoſe who live upon fixed incomes; and I am likewiſe

inclined to believe, from the turn that the young people have taken to manufactures, that farmers have rather found it difficult to procure ſervants and labourers for the purpoſes of cultivating the land: Perhaps it will be the intereſt both of the landlords and the farmers, to fall upon ſome mode of management which may counteract this growing evil.

NUMBER

NUMBER XX.

UNITED PARISHES OF STRONSAY AND EDAY.

(PRESBYTERY OF NORTH ISLES, SYNOD OF ORKNEY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN ANDERSON, *Miniſter.*

Extent and Situation.

THE Iſland of Stronſay is five computed miles long, and almoſt as broad from Eaſt to Weſt, ſo indented with bays, that there is no part of the iſland above one mile from the ſea. This, with the ſmall iſland of Papa, the extent of which, round the ſhores, is about three miles; and with the Holms, or paſture iſlands, comprehends what is now termed the pariſh of Stronſay. The iſland of Eday, which is about the centre of the North iſles of Orkney, has rapid tides, which waſh the Eaſt and Weſt ſides of it; theſe occaſion eddies on the North and South ends, to which circumſtance, it pro-

bably owes its name. It is computed to be five miles long, and nearly a mile and a half broad †.

Sea Coaſt, Harbours, &c.—The iſland of Stronſay has ſix principal neſſes; viz. Huipsneſs, Griceneſs, Odneſs, Lamneſs, Torneſs, and Linksneſs. The reſemblance in ſound which two of theſe, Torneſs and Odneſs, have to Thor and Woden, the Teutonic Deities, leaves room to conjecture their derivation.

There are two promontories, Borrowhead on the South Eaſt, and Rothesholm (Ronſum) head on the South Weſt; this was of old called Rodneip or Rodnumhead.

The other parts of ſea coaſt or ſhores about this iſland, conſiſt partly of three ſandy bays; one on the Eaſt, the Milnbay; one on the South, the bay of Holland; and one on Weſt, the bay of Erigarth or Weſt Wick. The ſandy beaches of the two firſt mentioned, extend each a mile in length; that of the laſt not ſo much, except at low water of ſpring tides; and conſiſt partly of ſkerries, (flat rocks, over which the ſea flows and ebbs;) which, with the ſhores of the neſſes, and

† This, with the Iſle of Fairay, which is about one mile long, and leſs than half a mile broad, and with the Holmes, comprehends the pariſh of Eday. To the pariſh of Stronſay, the four holms called Auſkerry, Mukle Linga or Holm of Midgarth, Little Linga and Holm of Huip, do belong; and to the pariſh of Eday five; viz, Calf of Eday, Mukle Green Holm, Little Green Holm, Holm of Fairay and Red-holm. So the number of iſlands, great and ſmall, in this diſtrict, amounts to no leſs than thirteen. This diſtrict has the iſland of Sanday on the North, the Fair Iſle on the North Eaſt; (at the manſe, ſituated on the N. E. ſide of Stronſay, this iſle may be diſtinctly ſeen, when the ſky is clear and wind eaſterly, although about thirty ſix miles diſtant;) the German Ocean on the Eaſt, the united pariſhes of Deerneſs and St. Andrews on the South; the pariſh of Shapinſkay on the South Weſt; the united pariſhes of Renſay and Egliſhay on the Weſt; and the united pariſhes of Weſtray and Papa Weſtray, on the North Weſt.

and South Weſt promontory above mentioned, produces great quantities of tang, or ſea-weed, fit for the kelp manufacture.

On the Eaſt ſide of the iſland, little kelp can be made, as few ſkerries ly there to produce tang. The water is deep nigh the ſhore, and the rocks abrupt, owing perhaps to their having no ſhelter from the German Ocean.

The ridge or riſing ground, which runs almoſt the length of the iſland from North to South, hath its ſurface covered with ſhort heath, where it has not been cut up lately for turf or feuel; the ſoil is a dry, friable, blackiſh earth; the bottom clay, mixed with ſmall ſtones, and in many places gravelly and ſhallow. The expence of cultivating ſuch a ſubject, might perhaps nearly equal its value when improved. It is the common paſture or out-freedom of all the farms and houſes adjacent to it. The Mill-dam divides this from the common paſture of the farms on the Eaſt ſide of the iſland, which common is covered with graſs of a mean quality; but as it has greater deepneſs of ſoil than the other common, and a bottom of tough clay, it might probably recompence more liberally the labour and expence of the improver ‡.

The

‡ Of old, the corn fields, and ſuch graſs as was eſteemed valuable, on this iſland, were ſeparated from the commons, now deſcribed, by hill-dykes, (as they are uſually termed,) built of feal or turf, which are kept up through Orkney in general to this day. A conſiderable proportion of the hill-dykes of this iſland were ſuffered to fall into diſrepair, about thirty years ago, by the advice of Thomas Balfour, of Huip, an heritor in this iſland, who died about ſeven years ago. He was of opinion, that the expence of keeping up theſe dykes, was greater than the advantage derived from them; but this opinion is not univerſally acquieſced in by the inhabitants.

All the neſſes above mentioned, except Linkſneſs, (of which under the article ſtate of agriculture, &c.) are appropriated for ſheep paſture, on the reſpective iſthmuſſes of which neſſes, hill-dykes are ſtill kept in repair, to prevent the

The ſmall iſland of Papa Stronſay, lying flat with corn fields, which have been ſtimulated by plenty of ware, to raiſe luxuriant crops of grain, lyes on the North Eaſt ſide of Stronſay, is ſeparated from it by a narrow ſound, over which two men can row a ſmall boat in five minutes, and adds a varigated beauty to the proſpect on that ſide.

The iſland of Eday, conſiſting chiefly of hills of a moderate height, and pretty extenſive, had been much uſed of old for paſture, as appears from ancient rentals, (1598 and preceeding,) in which, a great proportion of its rent is charged in butter and fleſh. Three fourths of it, at leaſt, conſiſt of out-freedom, or common paſture, to this day; this common is covered moſtly with heather, which, in ſome places, though not in general, is pretty long, and is divided from the graſs and corn fields, by hill-dykes, as in the days of yore. On this common, a conſiderable number of ſheep, beſides horſes, black

the ſheep from ſtraying over the iſland in ſummer and harveſt; (the neſs ſheep have no herds;) but, during the winter, and more than half the ſpring, they have full freedom to graze at large over the iſland. Borrowhead, and Rothesholm are alſo ſheep walks; the latter of which, being of great extent, comprehends the whole peat moſs in the iſland of Stronſay, from which moſs the inhabitants have, for time immemorial, been in uſe to caſt peats or turf for firing, on paying a ſmall acknowledgement in money or ſervices, to the tenant or poſſeſſor of the farm of Rothesholm.

The commons, and ſheep paſture above deſcribed, are reckoned to be nearly two thirds of the whole iſland. The other third forms the ſkirts or borders of it; where Nature's ſimple variety hath hitherto been but little encroached on by the regular uniformity of art. Corn fields, of different ſhapes and ſizes, which fields, no man living ever ſaw in paſture, interſperſed with a proportional extent of graſs of different qualities, graſs which bears no traces of having ever been in tillage; theſe exhibit a ſcene not unpleaſant, in the months of ſummer and harveſt.

The fields too, of natural graſs, even in winter, retain a degree of lively verdure, ſuperior to thoſe in many of the interior parts of Scotland. It is obſervable, that the flatter any of thoſe iſlands are found to be, the better, uſually, is the quality of their graſs, and the more lively their verdure.

black cattle, &c. graze at large. Their number, it is ſuppoſed, might be greatly increaſed, and the breed improved, were proper ſhepherds to take charge of them. The corn and graſs fields which lie along the ſkirts of the iſland, are interrupted by the common paſture, which, in ſome places, runs a great way along the ſhores *.

There are two commodious harbours or road-ſteads, in the iſland of Stronſay, ſafe for ſhipping at all ſeaſons, and in all weathers; viz. 1*ſt*, Ling, a ſound on the Weſt ſide well ſheltered by Mukle Ling, or holm of Midgarth from weſterly winds, and from all other winds by the iſland itſelf. This harbour has two entries, a South Weſt and a North Weſt entry; through the South Weſt one, which is the wideſt, large veſſels may eaſily paſs, with the aſſiſtance of a pilot, and can ride on four fathoms water. 2*d*, Papa ſound, on the North Eaſt ſide of Stronſay, ſheltered by the ſmall iſland of Papa Stronſay; there are two entries, one from the North

* The ſea coaſt is various, ſandy, ſtoney, gravelly, and, in ſome places, on the South Weſt and North ſides, hold, from 40 to ten fathoms. The water, though not very deep, waſhes the feet of theſe precipices. The remaining parts of ſea coaſt are low rocks or ſkerries, covered with tang, of which a conſiderable quantity of kelp is manufactured annually. Eday lies Weſt from Stronſay. The ſound which ſeparates theſe iſlands is about three miles over at the Ferry.

Fairay lies Weſt from Enay, at the diſtance of a mile and half, the Weſt ſide of which is expoſed to the Atlantic Ocean, which ruſhes with great rapidity through Weſtray Firth: This inlet of ſea ſeparates the iſlands of Weſtray on the North, and Rouſay on the South: From this cauſe, the iſland of Fairay is much expoſed to have its crops of grain damaged by the ſpray of the ſea. This iſland, and two holms appertaining to it, are well adapted for the paſture of cattle or ſheep; and tang grows on ſome of its ſhores, for the manufacture of kelp.

The three holmes which belong to the iſland of Eday; and the four which belong to the iſland of Stronſay, do all produce excellent paſture for ſheep, for ſome ſmall horſes and for black cattle, which the tenants tranſport by boat, from the inhabited iſlands, in the beginning of June, and carry back by the ſame conveyance about the end of September.

North Weſt, which is the wideſt and ſafeſt; and the other from the Eaſt; a ſtranger, however, would require a pilot, as the Weſt entry is intricate, and the Eaſt one narrow and dangerous. Small veſſels can ride here ſafely at all ſeaſons.

There are bays alſo on the Eaſt, South, Weſt, and North Weſt ſides, in which veſſels may drop anchor, and ride ſafely, if the wind do not blow ſtrong on ſhore. There are two good harbours or road ſteads in the iſland of Eday; Fairſneſs Sound, on the Weſt ſide, ſheltered by the ſmall iſle of Fairay, and Calf Sound, on the North end, ſheltered by the Calf of Eday. Veſſels of great burden may ride at anchor ſafely in theſe road-ſteads, each of which has the advantage of two entries. There is alſo a bay on the South end of Eday, where veſſels may ride ſafely, if the wind do not blow ſtrong on ſhore.

State of Property.—The iſlands of Orkney anciently belonged to the King of Denmark and Norway; but on the marriage of Margaret, the princeſs royal, about the year 1468, to the King of Scotland, with whom he was to receive 50,000 florins of the Rhine; the iſlands of Orkney and Shetland were mortgaged for that ſum, and afterwards annexed to the Crown of Scotland. It was ſtipulated, that the laws and privileges of the inhabitants ſhould remain inviolable.

That ſome traces of the manners, cuſtoms, language, and laws of the Norwegians, are ſtill to be found in theſe iſlands, may be naturally expected; owing to which, improvements in farming, and other arts, have been ſeverely checked or much retarded; and the ſtate of property, of courſe, influenced in no ſmall degree, even to this day.

Heritable property in Orkney may be conſidered as divided into Kings lands, kirk lands, and udal lands. The whole rents of the firſt mentioned, being demeſne lands, were anciently

cently paid to the ſovereign: Theſe, in proceſs of time, were feued by the Crown or its donators, in parcels to the tenants, or others who had intereſt to procure them; which feus they in general obtained for payment of the old rental. In ſome inſtances, for a ſmall augmentation of the rental; and in others, with a deduction therefrom: the reaſon aſſigned for which laſt, is, the lands were dear, and like to ly ley for want of tenants.

The kirk lands were in ſimilar circumſtances, and were feued in like manner of old, by eccleſiaſtics or church-men, for the old rental or thereby. Some of the udal lands pay a ſmall proportion of yearly rent to the King, and to the kirk; and ſome of them do not pay any thing to one or to the ther. Inſtances of all theſe ſpecialities are to be found in this diſtrict*.

* The truth of theſe obſervations will appear, by examining a complete rental book, of the whole lands in Orkney and Shetland, made up in 1598, by James Law, biſhop of Orkney, which was entered and rented in Exchequer, on the 18th November 1617, and is ſtill extant in the Regiſter Office. More than 20 years after ſaid rental was made up, namely, in the year 1621, Orkney heritors were denominated, in their public records, to be "mean "men, and farmourers, and payers of the riggs of the rental." They had continued, it ſeems, to poſſeſs the farms, or parcels of lands, which they and their forefathers had feued, or had let them to their principal ſervants, or dependents, with the ſteel-bow; that is, the ſtocking of the farms, ſuch as horſes, black cattle, ſheep, labouring inſtruments, and even houſehold furniture. For which farms and ſteel-bow, tenants of this deſcription become bound to pay the old rental, or feu-duty, and ſuch additional rent as the land could bear. At this period, and long after, the feuers lived in terms of ſocial intercourſe and familiarity with their tenants; for maintaining and perpetuating of which, annual entertainments, conſiſting of the beſt viands which the farms produced, were chearfully given by the tenants to their landlords, during the Chriſtmas holy days: Theſe entertainments, called bummacks, ſtrengthened and confirmed the bonds of mutual confidence, attachment, and regard, which ought to ſubſiſt between thoſe ranks of men. As an inſtance of which,

The practice adopted by many, of giving ſhort leaſes of of farms, by others of giving no leaſes, and by all of giving very ſcanty encouragement to meliorate the ſoil, on the part of the heritors; and, on the part of the tenants, a pertinacious adherence to old cuſtoms, and to the method of farming uſed in Orkney, more than a hundred years ago, have hitherto been found great obſtructions to improvements in Agriculture.

Many Orkney eſtates are of ſmall extent: Parcels of land, belonging to one heritor, ly interſperſed, or run-rig with thoſe belonging to other heritors, one or more. The udal tenures, by which many ſmall portions of land are held, render their conveyance cheap and eaſy, and ſuch property, in ſome reſpects precarious; for who can deny, that the poor man's little ewe lamb is much expoſed to be carried off with the large flocks of his wealthy neighbours; or, to be ſecretly devoured by ſome beaſt of prey, or ravenous bird ‖.

Manufacture

which, on the part of the tenants, the following practice was introduced; The tenants wives went regularly, about the term of Lammas, to the feuars wives, their landladies, with preſents of butter, cheeſe, eggs, &c. hence called Lammas preſents. The Chriſtmas bummacks are almoſt univerſally diſcontinued; but, in ſome inſtances, the heritors have, in lieu of accepting ſuch entertainments, ſubſtituted a certain quantity of meal and malt to be paid to them annually by the tenants. The practice of giving annual preſents at Lammas is not univerſally kept up by the tenants wives; but there are not wanting inſtances where it is ſtill found to ſubſiſt.

Heritors and tenants are now become more wealthy than their anceſtors. The ſteel-bow, or ſtocking on the farms, hath, in general, been purchaſed by the tenants, and a recent influx of wealth, chiefly owing to the manufacture of kelp, hath occaſioned a very great change in this country, on the ſtate of landed property, mode of living, and manners of the inhabitants.

‖ The ancient practice of erecting ſcal or turf dykes, which require annual repairs, around their graſs and corn land, at the joint expence of the poſ-

ſeſſors

Manufacture of Kelp —This valuable, and, as it may now be conſidered, ſtaple commodity of Orkney, (was firſt of all in this county manufactured in the iſland of Stronſay, by James Fea, heritable proprietor of Whitehall,) and Wadſetter of North Strynrie, in the year 1722. This was a gentleman of an enterpriſing ſpirit, who brought a man of the name of Meldrum, from Fraſersburgh, to introduce kelp burning in Orkney; Meldrum, taking the Orkney inhabitants to be an ignorant and ſuperſtitious race of men, pretended that the kelp aſhes would not acquire ſuch a hard and ſolid conſiſtence as was requiſite, unleſs a certain powder was thrown into the kelp kilne before it was raked, accompanied with certain myſterious words, to the uſe of which powder and myſterious words, he claimed an excluſive right in that iſland.

He, however, ſoon found, that the inhabitants of Stronſay had more penetration and leſs ſuperſtition, than to be long hood-winked in this manner; for they found, on trial, that the

ſeſſors, in order to keep off their own and their neighbours horſes, yield cattle, ſwine, &c. in ſummer and harveſt; is ſtill adhered to more or leſs, in moſt of the Orkney iſlands. The general cuſtom of allowing their corn land to ly unmoleſted, during the winter, and until the weather ſets in fair in ſpring, which it ſeldom does before March or April; after which, their whole agricultural labour muſt be executed, before the kelp ſeaſon begins, in the month of May, or be done afterwards in a very ſuperficial manner; from which cauſes, an extra number of ſervants and horſes become neceſſary, which tends greatly to increaſe the expence of labour to the Orkney farmer. The conſiderable heritors in Orkney, with very few exceptions, have either removed with their families, from their manſions in the country, to reſide in Kirkwall, the only Royal Burgh in Orkney; or have, with their families, left the county altogether; and therefore, they find few opportunities of attending to the proceedings or rewarding the meritorious exertions of their tenants. From theſe circumſtances, the preſent unimproved ſtate of the country in general, may be eaſily accounted for.

Inſtead of improving the ſoil, the heritors and tenants in Orkney, have for many years paſt, directed their attention to the manufacture of kelp.

kelp aſhes, merely by the labour uſually adhibited poſterior to this myſtical application, became equally ſolid and good in quality, without, as with the aid of the magical words and powder.

This commodity ſold for ſeveral years poſterior to the date before mentioned, to a bottle-maker at Newcaſtle, for 3 l. Sterling per ton of 20 cwt.; but the manufacturers, or their employers, deſirous to make as much as poſſible by this new concern, began to adulterate the kelp aſhes, by mixing ſmall ſtones or ſand therewith; which impoſition being ſoon diſcovered, the price was reduced to 2l. 10 s., and the ton fixed at 21 cwt., which hath ever ſince been held the the weight of a ton of kelp. The laſt mentioned price continued for about 20 years, to be the rate for which it ſold, at an average; during which period, the annual quantity did not exceed 400 tons.

In the year 1744, kelp fell ſo low, that Mr Thomas Balfour, then a merchant, and afterwards heritor of the lands of Huip and others in Stronſay, bought a ſmall cargo of it, at 20 s. and 20 s. 6d. per ton in Orkney, carried it to Newcaſtle, and ſold it there for the current prices; and, on balancing accompts, found, that he had loſt 15 per cent by the adventure; as the author hath often heard him declare. For nineteen years afterwards, the average quantity was about 700 tons, price 2 l. 10 s. The heritors of this diſtrict had about one tenth of the whole quantity annually made in Orkney; for each ton of which, the heritors drew about 20s. the makers and purchaſers the remainder.

In 1763, and for 15 years following, the average quantity made annually in Orkney, was 1800 tons. Of which, the heritors in this diſtrict have about 180.

The heritors, in general, during this period, became merchants of their own kelp, or ſold it on commiſſion. The annual

nual average price at market was 4l. 4 s. Sterling; the price of making was raiſed to about 26 s. and freight 12 s. per ton.

The heritors and kelp proprietors of this diſtrict, drew annually about 350 l. The tenants and makers about 230 l. The remainder went for freight and commiſſion.

In 1778, and for fourteen years after, the average quantity annually burnt in Orkney, was 3000 tons, at 6 l. per ton. The heritors of this diſtrict had about 300. The price of making was raiſed to 11 l. 15 s. per ton, of which riſe the tenants chiefly reaped the benefit. The heritors and kelp proprietors of this diſtrict, drew annnally about 1050 l. The tenants 527 l. The remainder went for freight and commiſſion.

In 1792, the extraordinary good ſeaſon for the growth of ſea weeds, of which kelp is made, and for the manufacturing of it, produced in this diſtrict, to the incumbent's certain knowledge or beſt information, no leſs a quantity than 400 tons; when, at the ſame time, the whole Orkney iſlands did not produce above 4,000 tons. It is in this ratio, therefore, that he has calculated the produce of this diſtrict from the year 1744, during the ſeveral ſubſequent periods above ſpecified, and 60 tons, the average quantity annually produced preceding that date; which, in the earlieſt period, is a ſomewhat larger proportion, which Stronſay (where kelp was firſt manufactured in Orkney,) may reaſonably be ſuppoſed to have produced.

In 1793, the ſeaſon proved rainy and unfavourable for kelp. This diſtrict did not produce above 300 tons, price in Orkney 4 l. per ton. The heritors and kelp proprietors drew 775 l.; the tenants and kelp makers, 525 l. Sterling, clear of all deductions, being in the ſame proportions as the year preceding.

This

This ſeaſon, 1794, being remarkably favourable for kelp burning, promiſes an abundant crop in Orkney, which may equal, or perhaps exceed that of 1792.

The quantities of kelp made, with the average prices at the different periods above ſpecified, are taken, in a great meaſure, from the information given by the Orkney gentlemen in the year 1766 to Mr M'Tavish, who was directed by the Board of Truſtees to procure information reſpecting that and many other particulars*.

Agriculture.

* By the above ſtate it appears, that the heritors and pariſhioners of this diſtrict, have drawn from kelp, ſince the manufacture of it was introduced by James Fea of Whitehall, in the year 1722, no leſs a ſum than 29,197 l. 10 s. during a period of 71 years; being 41 years purchaſe of the whole diſtrict at the preſent groſs rent. Thoſe of the other iſlands of Orkney have drawn nine times as much money; that is, 262,777 l. 10 s., being 36 years purchaſe of theſe iſlands, at the preſent groſs rent; both ſums amount to 291,976 l. Sterling, which is more than 36 years purchaſe of all the iſlands of Orkney; the groſs rent of which is only about 8,000 l. Sterling annually.

In theſe calculations, the profits and advantages accruing to the traders and others in Orkney, by carrying this commodity to market, are not included. When, however, it is conſidered, that the ſhips belonging to Orkney have been almoſt the only carriers of it for many years paſt, the profits and other advantages derived from this branch of trade in theſe iſlands, muſt not only have been great to them as individuals, but alſo of no ſmall importance to the nation at large, by extending its commerce, increaſing its wealth, and producing a nurſery of excellent ſeamen.

On this ſubject, the following remark, to many readers, will, it is preſumed, naturally occur: That James Fea of Whitehall, of the iſland of Stronſay, in Orkney, (that is the name and deſignation of the man, who introduced ſo valuable a manufacture into his native country,) ought not only to be kept in remembrance, but that ſome permanent teſtimony of gratitude, from thoſe who have reaped and ſtill do reap ſuch important advantages from his ſpirited exertions, ought to be deviſed, in honour to his memory, and for the encouragement of aſpiring genius in ſucceeding ages. Premuims of this nature, conferred by ſocieties, by diſtricts, or by the public, honourable as they unqueſtionably would be to the memory of thoſe on whom they were conferred, would certainly be no leſs creditable to thoſe who beſtowed them.

Agriculture.—The vicinity of all the cultivated lands in this diſtrict to the ſea ſhore, induced of old and ſtill induces the inhabitants to uſe ſea-weed as their chief, and almoſt only manure. The great quantities of it thrown into their numerous bays, creeks, and about their neſſes, enabled them to adopt a practice which is ſtill continued, of putting one half of their laboured land to bear or bigg, which half they put to oats the year following; this ſhort rotation they have continued for time immemorial. They lay their houſe dung on the land deſigned for bear, uſually before Chriſtmas; the field on which this is laid, they keep perpetually at bear, except once in ſix or ſeven years, when it becomes too rich and ſpungy; they then having kept back the manure, take a ſingle crop of oats, and go on as before with bear crops. The ſide plough, with four horſes abreaſt, or in broad band, is moſt generally uſed. The plough-boy walks with a retrogade motion, having his face towards the horſes faces. The extent of field which ſuch a plough labours, is about fifteen acres Scots meaſure.

The number of returns of oats is from three to four, and of bear from five to ſix ſeeds, at an average. Potatoes were not generally planted fifteen years ago, when the preſent incumbent was admitted miniſter; and, where they were planted, it was on the green ſward, in the lazy bed way. Theſe are cultivated more generally, and are uſually planted after the plough, in land which has been long in tillage. They thrive well, when kept clean from weeds. Few farmers have as yet been induced to plant them at ſo great a diſtance as to admit of their being horſe hoed or cleaned by the plough; a ſucceſsful example in this way, nevertheleſs, hath more than once been exhibited to them. Clover and rye-graſs ſeeds, during the period before mentioned, have been ſown as a hay

crop

crop and for paſture, and ſucceeded very well; but the farmers, in general, have not yet followed this example, chiefly for want of proper encouragement *.

The

* Thomas Balfour, before mentioned, after purchaſing the eſtate of Huip, in the iſland of Stronſay, began about thirty years ago, to make ſome improvements in agriculture, particularly on his lands of Linkneſs above deſcribed, which had previouſly been uſed only as ſheep paſture. He erected a ſteading of houſes there, with a view of turning it into a corn farm, induced no doubt by the great quantities of ware or ſea-weeds for manure thrown upon the ſhores of it annually. The ſoil was ſhallow and poor, for much of it had, before that period, been cut up for fuel or firing for cottars and ſub-tenants. As it had a clay bottom, tolerable crops, when ſeaſons were good, and manure plenty, were produced; but a ſeries of bad ſeaſons having ſucceeded the year 1776, the heritor, after managing this new farm by ſervants on his own account, for ten or twelve years, was pleaſed to let it to a tenant, together with a much larger farm, of which it originally was a ſheep-paſture-pendicle: But the farmer having found that Linkſneſs, by being kept in tillage, did not give returns ſufficient to indemnify him for the expence of labouring it, owing to a ſeries of bad ſeaſons and other unfavourable circumſtances, thought proper to allow it to revert to its former ſtate of natural graſs, not much mended as to quality; in which ſtate it remains to this day. Mr Balfour, with a view to improve other parts of his eſtate in Stronſay, incloſed with earthen fences, to the extent of about 50 acres Scots meaſure; and, adjacent thereto, built a ſteading of farm houſes: But as theſe acres lay at a much greater diſtance from ſea weeds than the farm of Linkſneſs, and moreover had no title to ſuch weeds for manure, but by favour of the farmers who had immemorially poſſeſſed the privilege of carrying them off to lay on their corn fields, a different mode of farming from that uſed in the iſland of Stronſay behoved to be adopted, and carried on, under the direction of a farmer or overſeer brought from a part of the country, where equal diſadvantages ſubſiſted. This was done for a conſiderable number of years; but this laudable attempt failed of ſucceſs.

Mr Balfour had ſuch influence in this iſland, that, by his advice and example, he induced ſome farmers on other eſtates to incloſe parcels of their paſture grounds in like manner as he had done; theſe farmers, however, did not make any attempts to cultivate or improve the grounds which they had thus incloſed, prudently and patiently waiting the iſſue of Mr Balfour's experiments in this way.

Robert

The family of Tankerneſs, one of the moſt ancient among the heritors of this diſtrict, began, about 40 years ago, to give a leaſe of their lands in Eday, and paſture iſlands, pertinents thereof, being the whole heritage they now poſſeſs in this diſtrict, to tenants for the ſpace of nineteen years; viz. to a tenant named John Murray, and to his ſon James, who renewed it for other nineteen years, which laſt leaſe being nearly expired, he hath again renewed it for thirty years; on the condition of paying a ſpecies of rent, which in other counties would be deemed ſingular; namely, a certain quantity, (30 or 35 tons) of kelp yearly. His preſent landlord, Robert Baikie of Tankerneſs, is a polite, well informed, hoſpitable country gentleman, who had the honour to be returned a member of the Houſe of Commons, to repreſent his native county, at the laſt general election ſave one. This tenant hath built hundreds of fathoms of ſtone dykes for incloſures; hath repaired the farm houſes at a great expence; ſome part of which, however, hath been defrayed by his landlord; and he hath made improvements on this farm by rearing more cattle, and of a better ſort than in former years; by introducing the Scotch or two ſtilted plough, in ſtead of

Robert Laing, another merchant in Kirkwall, did alſo purchaſe an eſtate, lying partly in Stronſay and partly in Eday, about 24 years ago.

He gave ſome encouragement to his tenant in North Strynzie, and Stronſay, to make improvements; this he did by engaging to pay part of the expence of incloſing certain parcels of that farm with ſtone dykes. Theſe materials being more valuable than turf, and the grounds thus incloſed of a ſuperior quality to ſuch as were incloſed by Mr Balfour, rendered the benefit thus ariſing from incloſing graſs fields greater and more permanent. This tenant, induced, in ſome degree, perhaps, by the example and advice of his neighbour the miniſter, began lately to incloſe a few acres of laboured land, which he intends to prepare, without delay, for laying down with graſs ſeeds, for hay and paſture.

the Orkney ſide-plough, but without laying the latter altogether aſide; he hath made experiments by levelling and improving uneven grounds, ſowing graſs ſeeds, &c. which might perhaps entitle him to be ranked among ſkilful and ſpirited farmers in any part of Scotland.

Two other heritors of this diſtrict, merely by extending their tenants leaſes to twenty four years, without binding themſelves to reimburſe to their tenants any expence laid out on improvements, and without taking their tenants bound to lay out ſuch expence, have the ſatisfaction to find a ſpirit of enterpriſe breaking the fetters of inveterate practices, which have been long ago exploded from other parts of Scotland; and gradually introducing the more pleaſant and profitable ones of incloſing, ſowing graſs ſeeds, making hay, feeding cattle, &c. and even of repairing, at the tenant's expence, the farm houſes, in a manner at once uſeful and commodious to the tenant, eaſy and advantageous to the heritor. Gilbert Maſon, merchant in Edinburgh, late proprietor of Rothesholm, now of Mordum; and Andrew Liddle merchant in, and one of the baillies of Kirkwall, now deceaſed, deſerve to be mentioned with honour, as heritors who gave theſe leaſes ſome years ago to their tenants, and their tenants have exerted that vigour and induſtry which long leaſes encourage*.

There

* To theſe indications of induſtry and active exertion among the farmers of this diſtrict, the following ought not to be paſſed over in ſilence. A leaſe of the farm of South Strynzie, for a period of only fifteen years, was given ſometime ago, by Mr John Scollay the proprietor, to Edward Chalmers the tenant, who has erected an earthen fence to incloſe eight or nine acres of ground, which was partly in tillage and partly in natural graſs. He has not only begun to ſow graſs ſeeds, of which his farm ſtands much in need for paſture, but he has removed the farm houſes to a much more convenient ſituation than they occupied when he entered upon the poſſeſſion. An allowance was indeed made to him of a certain ſum by the proprietor; but this allowance did

There are in this diſtrict one farm of 80 l. rent, four of about 60 l., eight of about 30 l. yearly rent: The reſt are each laboured by one plough, rent from 5 l. to 8 l. In ſome inſtances, two or more tenants join to make one plough to labour their ſmall farms; and there are many ſmall pendicles, particularly in the iſland of Eday, the poſſeſſors of which, inſtead of uſing a plough, delve the whole of their ſmall farms with the ſpade; and even the harrow is frequently dragged by theſe tenants or by their wives or their children.

The preceding narrative will ſhow the infant ſtate of improvements in agriculture within this diſtrict, and that few and feeble attempts have hitherto been made to improve the ſoil*.

did not exceed one third of the expence incurred by this removal of the farm houſes. The graſs rent is about 40 l. yearly. Thus hath this tenant, in a very ſpirited manner, during the currency of a ſhort leaſe, expended a conſiderable ſum for his own interim accommodation, and for the permanent benefit of the farm.

* An enquiry into the cauſes which contributed to fruſtrate ſome of thoſe which were made, particularly by Mr Balfour, (from patriotic, it is believed, more than ſelfiſh motives,) might be intereſting and uſeful, if the inquiry was made by one duly qualified for the taſk: but as there is little probability, at preſent, that this will engage the attention of ſuch an one, unſkilled and unexperienced as the writer may be held, he will preſume on the liberty to mention briefly ſuch as appear to him to have operated in this way: *1ſt*, The ſubjects ſelected for improvement were of a poor quality; ſuch, it is apprehended, require ſkilful management, great experience, and no little expence to render ſucceſsful any attempts to improve them to advantage. Mr Balfour was, indeed, an experienced merchant, an intelligent, patriotic, and moſt hoſpitable gentleman; but, although, he had occaſionally paſſed through many counties in Britain, and had been in other parts of Europe, yet it will be admitted, that he could not rank as a practical farmer. Beſides, he lived in the town of Kirkwall, at about 15 miles diſtance by ſea from the places in Stronſay where his improvements were carried on. *2dly*, The labouring

With a view to guard againſt diſappointments in reference to agricultural improvements, to communicate the ſucceſs of experiments, and to remedy certain inconveniences to which this diſtrict is liable by its local circumſtances; the principal farmers in the iſland of Stronſay, moſt chearfully concurred to form themſelves into a ſociety; and they accordingly did form and conſtitute the ſociety of farmers in Stronſay, about eighteen months ago, to which almoſt all the farmers in the iſland have thought proper to accede. This ſociety agreed to ſuch bye-laws as they judged neceſſary for regulating their future procedure. They reſolved, that ſmall ſums ſhould be contributed annually by the members, who were ranked in four different claſſes, according to the extent of

ing inſtruments which he adopted were different from thoſe uſed in this iſland. The inhabitants, like all others who have little intercourſe with ſtrangers, were averſe to innovations, and deſpiſed a mode of farming different in ſome reſpects from that to which they and their progenitors had immemorially been inured. The general opinion of the inhabitants, it is natural to conjecture, had its weight with Mr Balfour's ſervants, all of whom, being natives of Stronſay, except the grieves or overſeers, ſoon manifeſted an averſion to uſe implements of agriculture different from thoſe with which they had been acquainted from their infancy. Accordingly, theſe improvements were not carried on with ſuch a degree of induſtry and perſeverance as could reaſonably be ſupoſed to ſecure ſucceſs. 3*dly*, The attempts made were merely to raiſe grain, for which purpoſe, the manure was found ſcanty. Sea-weeds were the only manure uſed on Linksneſs. When the ſeaſons, therefore, were unfavourable, or if but little of this article happened to be caſt aſhore, the crops were not productive. In other places, where little or no ſea-weeds could be got, horſe dung, mixed with green ſods or turf, was the only ſubſtitute.

The ſmall quantity of this manure which could be procured from a new farm, behoved greatly to retard the progreſs of improvement of a ſoil ſo poor in quality as above diſcribed. Another obſtruction to its melioration, was an ill judged anxiety to come as near as poſſible to the general practice in Orkney, of keeping corn fields under bear and oat crops alternately in equal proportions for ever.

of the farm they poſſeſſed, which conſtituted four different rates. It is propoſed, that theſe ſums ſhall raiſe and become a fund, for defraying the neceſſary expences of ſtated quarterly meetings of the ſociety; and, after ten years accumulation, ſhall be a fund alſo for the relief of ſuch widows and orphans of the members as may be left in indigent circumſtances; and that in proportion to the rates contributed by their deceaſed husbands or fathers reſpectively. The ſociety eſtabliſhed certain regulations with reſpect to herding black cattle, ſheep, ſwine, &c. They took the ſtate of the crop of the iſland under conſideration, aſcertained the prices at which they judged the different ſorts of victual ought to ſell, during the quarter ſubſequent to each of their meetings, according to their knowledge and the beſt information which they could procure; and the members agreed to ſell what they could ſpare at lower rates in Orkney than they could obtain for it from other places in Scotland. The ſucceſs of ſuch experiments in agriculture as had been made by the members, was reported to the ſociety, &c. This ſociety cannot entertain a doubt of their obtaining the approbation of, and all ſuitable encouragement from the public, and alſo from thoſe of this diſtrict, whoſe patrimonial intereſt may be eventually promoted by the attainment of the objects which the ſociety have in view.

A few hints for promoting agricultural improvements in this diſtrict, in conjunction with ſome attempts lately made by the tenants, as above ſpecified, fall now to be ſubmitted to the public eye; and, it is humbly preſumed, that the comfort and emolument of all ranks in this diſtrict would be promoted, and the intereſt of the public moſt effectually ſecured, by adopting the following regulations:

1*ſt*,

1*ſt*, That the heritors be at the expence of putting the farm houſes in good repair, and that they give leaſes of their lands to their tenants, at reaſonable rents, for three times nineteen years, or for certain loug periods.

2*dly*, That the tenants receive the farm houſes on valuation, and become bound to deliver them in like manner at the expiry of their leaſes, on adequate payment made to them for melioration, or ſimilar payment by them to the heritors in caſe of deterioration.

3*dly*, That incloſures, to a certain extent, on a plan annually agreed to by the heritor and tenant, be built by the tenant; the value of which to be reimburſed by the heritor at the concluſion of the firſt period of nineteen years, ſo that the tenant may be enabled to proceed with additional incloſures, or ſuch other improvements as may have been ſpecified in the leaſe.

4*thly*, That during the ſecond period of nineteen years, a certain additional rent, about ten per cent. of the money ſo advanced by the heritor, be paid annually by the tenant; and that this increaſe of rent be doubled during the third period.

5*thly*, That no allowance be made by the heritor for any expence laid out by the tenant, in building incloſures, or other improvements, during the two laſt periods of the leaſe.

6*thly*, That a ſpecific extent of arable and graſs grounds ſhould be aſcertained by ſkillful men, to be competent for maintaining a ſub-tenant's family, on the ſuppoſition that the ſame is managed by him, without the aſſiſtance of the principal tenant; and ſuch extent alloted accordingly to all families of this deſcription.

7*thly*, That one half, or thereby, of the before mentioned extent of arable and graſs ground, ſhould be alloted for a cottar's or a boll-man's family, each of whom may be conſidered, for more than one half of the year, as a daily ſervant

of

to the principal tenant, by whoſe ploughs theſe ſmall farms ſhould be laboured.

8thly, That in all reſpects, except thoſe above mentioned, the ſtipulations be left to be mutually condeſcended on by the principal tenants, and by their ſubtenants and cottars, or boll-men, reſpectively.

9thly, That heritors, who incline to encourage manufactures, and increaſe the population of their country, may reſerve in their own poſſeſſion ſome ſmall farm or parcel of ground on their eſtates, beſt adapted to the purpoſe, to let in very long leaſes, or to feu out to be houſes and gardens for ſhop-keepers, kelp-makers, mechanics, fiſhers, day-labourers, &c. Such families might thus furniſh a ready market for butcher meat or other proviſions raiſed by the neighbouring tenants, or their dependents.

By adhering to theſe regulations, the heritors, or their heirs, at the expiry of 57 years, would find their eſtates in a high degree of cultivation; would have an additional rent well paid; a certain proportion thereof, one third or thereby, incloſed, and the beſt ſecurity afforded againſt loſs by bankrupt tenants, which is found to be a great deduction from the rental in many diſtricts in Scotland, with an increaſed price for ſuch articles of rent as might be ſtipulated to be paid to the heritors in kind.

All theſe advantages, without any expence to the heritors, would doubtleſs contribute, in a high degree, to the comfort of the tenants and of their dependents; and alſo to advance the intereſt of the community‡.

Rental

‡ On this plan, agriculture, manufactures, and fiſheries, in their ſeveral departments, would mutually ſupport and cheriſh each other, to much greater advantage

Rental, &c.—Sir Thomas, now Lord Dundas, has no property lands, but has the ſuperiorities of all the lands in this diſtrict.

The valued rents in 1653, according to the Orkney ceſs book, are as follows:

Rental

advantage than they can poſſibly do when jumbled together, as they have been in this diſtrict, for time immemorial; here it is not uncommon to ſee a man one day acting the part of a tradeſman; another, that of a fiſher; a third, that of a kelp maker; who, having found all theſe employments inſufficient for the ſupport of himſelf and family, muſt apply alſo to the tillage of the ground, in order to furniſh (after all) a ſcanty ſubſiſtance for him and them. The truth of the proverb, in ſuch caſes, is manifeſt; "Jock of all trades, good at none!".

It is moreover ſubmitted, with all due deference, that the following incitements to induſtry, and to improvements, might with propriety be added:

1*ſt*, That one or more ſkilful farmers ſhould be induced to come from well cultivated counties in Britain, to ſettle in ſuch as are badly cultivated. This might be effected by means of an annual premium, to be paid by the heritors, jointly, of the laſt mentioned diſtricts, for a certain number of years, to theſe willing to accept ſuch terms; or otherwiſe, as might be judged proper.

Under ſuch examples, improvements in agriculture might reaſonably be expected to advance with certainty; and ſuitable inducements would thus be held forth to the other tenants of theſe diſtricts, ſufficient to influence them to adopt ſimilar modes of cultivation, and of improvement, in the management of their farms.

2*dly* That a ſpirit of emulation ſhould be raiſed among the heritors of different diſtricts, by premiums, or honourable diſtinctions conferred by the public, on thoſe heritors who are moſt active to introduce the before mentioned plan, or any other plan better calculated for promoting the public intereſt.

3*dly*, That heritors and tenants of each diſtrict, in collective bodies, ſhould reſpectively excite a ſpirit of emulation among their dependants by annual premiums. And, 4*thly*, As this would infallibly increaſe greatly the national wealth and importance, that a certain ſum, or number of medals, ſhould be advanced to the heritors or tenants of ſuch diſtricts as exhibited proofs of great exertions in this way, to be by them diſtributed to the individuals under

	Scots. L. s. d.	Sterling. L. s. d.
Rental of ſuperior duties amount of	2624 15 2⅓ or	218 14 7
Heritors or feuars, rental amount of	2887 1 6⅓ or	240 11 10
Miniſter's ſtipend	577 1 5⅓ or	48 1 9
Valued rent of theſe united pariſhes	6088 18 2 or	507 8 2

	Scots. L. s. d.	Sterling. L. s. d.
The above rental of ſuperior duties conſiſts partly of money, viz.	235 14 11 or	19 12 10 11/12
The heritors or feuars rental alſo partly ditto, viz.	366 15 4 or	30 11 3 4/12
Miniſter's ſtipend, partly of ditto.	380 6 8 or	31 13 10 8/12

The remaining parts of theſe rentals conſiſt in malt, oat meal, butter, oil; and, in the ſtipend, ſome vicarage tithes are paid in kind.

	Scots. L. s. d.	Sterling. L. s. d.
The meil of malt, which is nearly 12 ſtone weight, is valued at	3 6 8 or	0 5 6⅔

der their immediate inſpection, reſpectively, who might, on ſtrict examination, be found to have the beſt claims.

Thus, a general union of all ranks would be formed, and a due ſubordination maintained; which, being ſupported on the ſolid pillars of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, would reſemble a well conſtructed arch, ſufficiently able to ſuſtain a fortificatitn of ſuch ſtrength as might defy all the hoſtile attacks of its envious or ambitious neighbours.

	Scots. L. s. d.	Sterling. L s. d.
The meil of oat meal of ditto weight, at - -	4 0 0	or 0 6 8
The barrel of butter, which contains about 60 pints, and weighs 200 weight, is valued at - -	20 0 0	or 1 13 4
The lispund of butter, which is nearly 2 ſtone weight, is valued at - -	2 0 0	or 0 3 4
The barrel of oil, which contains the ſame quantity, and is the ſame weight as a barell of butter, is valued at - - -	16 0 0	or 1 6 8
The lispund of oil is the ſame weight as a lispund of butter, and valued at	1 12 0	or 0 2 8

The preſent groſs rental of Stronſay and Eday, comprehending ſuperiority, property, and ſtipend, amounts to only 746 l. 7s. 3d. Sterling, a ſmall part of which is paid by ſtipulation between ſome of the heritors and their tenants, for liberty to the latter to burn kelp and to ſell it on their own account.

The advance of rent, in theſe united pariſhes, during a period of no leſs than 140 years, appears inconſiderable, but this is accounted for by a very great proportion of the groſs rental in 1653, being paid in kind; ſome part of which hath been converted into money by the heritors to the tenants, about 40 years ago, and ſuch part as is ſtill paid in kind, calculated at the then ſelling prices of the country, which did not much exceed the valuation prices in 1653.

There

There are, excluſive of Lord Dundas, thirteen heritors, of whom ſix have a large extent, and ſeven have a ſmall extent of property lying in this diſtrict. There are no reſiding heritors except the heirs of Patrick Fea of Kerbuſter, whoſe property, at his deceaſe, fell to be divided equally amongſt his three daughters.

State of Population, Parochial Records, &c.—The ancient ſtate of the pariſh of Eday cannot now be aſcertained with exactneſs, as records of an old date for that pariſh are not to be found. Records for the pariſh of Stronſay, from the year 1673 and downwards, with chaſms of ſeveral years at different periods, in a decayed ſtate, as may be ſuppoſed, are yet in exiſtence.

From theſe it appears, that during a period of 20 years ſubſequent to 1673, the number of baptiſms in the pariſh of Stronſay was 382, of marriages 109. That during 20 years ſubſequent to 1743, the number of baptiſms was 601, viz. of males 309, of females 292.

In the united pariſhes of Stronſay and Eday, during a period of 14 years ſubſequent to 1779, when the preſent incumbent was admitted, the numbers of baptiſms, marriages, and burials, in the ſeparate years of that period were as follow:

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES, IN THE UNITED PARISHES OF STRONSAY AND EDAY.

	Stronsay.				Eday.				
	Baptisms.		Marriages.	Burials.	Baptisms.		Marriages.	Burials.	Gross amount
	M.	*F.*			*M.*	*F.*			
1780	11	13	5	4	8	14	5	11	
1781	18	10	7	27	11	5	6	30	
1782	13	13	6	17	12	10	4	11	
1783	9	8	8	16	11	8	4	12	
1784	13	11	6	18	8	7	3	13	
1785	7	6	6	21	9	9	3	6	
1786	12	18	6	21	16	12	6	16	B. M. B.
Amount									302 74 224
1787	7	12	12	29	8	9	7	8	
1788	12	8	10	18	11	5	3	15	
1789	13	9	4	15	17	12	2	10	
1790	7	11	7	17	7	11	6	13	
1791	17	12	4	16	10	4	5	11	
1792	17	10	8	15	7	9	3	14	
1793	17	12	4	16	8	9	4	9	
Amount									291 79 206
Total amount	173	153	92	251	143	124	61	179	593 153 430

Number of houses and of souls, in the united parishes of Stronsay and Eday, at different periods, as under:

	In Stronsay †.			In Eday.	
	Houses.	Souls.	Married.	Houses.	Souls.
1761	170				
1772		1015	160		
1781	182	819		143	675
1787	178	887		126	601

† The number of houses, souls, and married in the parish of Stronsay, in the years 1761, and 1772, are stated in the report of certain of the parishioners; but the numbers in 1781, and 1787, were taken up by the clerks of the parishes under the minister's inspection.

Of the above mentioned number of ſouls in the pariſh of Stronſay in 1787, there were:

Years.		
From 1 to 10	——	223
—— 10 — 20	——	101
—— 20 — 30	——	57
—— 30 — 40	——	105
—— 40 — 50	——	97
—— 50 — 60	——	78
—— 60 — 70	——	81
—— 71 — 80	——	37
—— 80 — 90	——	9
Total Number		887 As above ſtated.

Obſervation.—During the period of ſeven years, preceding the preſent year 1794, the number of baptiſms, marriages, and burials, in theſe united pariſhes, appear, by table firſt, to have been nearly equal to the numbers reſpectively during the like period of years, preceding 1787, ſo that, had the emigrations (which are not few,) from theſe pariſhes to other iſlands in Orkney, or to places more remote, been as few in the laſt ſeven years, as during the preceding ſeven years, the population would be nearly the ſame now, as it was ſeven years ago; but, from certain regulations or practices, lately introduced, unfavourable to the increaſe of population, and to the improvement of the ſoil of theſe pariſhes, there is ground to apprehend, that the population is decreaſing, and will continue to decreaſe, if ſuitable remedies be not ſpeedily applied, particularly with reſpect to fuel or peats; and the partial increaſe of ſervants wages.

Fuel, Servants Wages, &c.—The inhabitants of theſe pariſhes have uſed peats only, as their firing, for time immemorial;

morial; in which neceſſary of life they have been greatly reſtricted by the proprietors of moſſes in both pariſhes, as to quantity, during the laſt period of ſeven years. Notwithſtanding, there remains an inexhauſtible fund of that article in this diſtrict; at leaſt, conjecture itſelf is at a loſs to aſcertain the number of centuries which the moſſes in the iſlands of Stronſay and Eday would ſupply their inhabitants with ſuch annual quantities of peats as they were accuſtomed to provide for their families, before ſuch reſtrictions were impoſed §.

Horſes,

§ The proprietors of peat moſs in the iſland of Eday have been pleaſed, for ſome years laſt paſt, with a view to ſave their moſſes, to prevent the meaneſt of the inhabitants, their own ſmall tenants, ſub-tenants, cottars, or delvers of their little ſpots of ground, to boil certain quantities of what they call ſalt, (of a mean quality, it muſt be acknowledged,) over the only fire burnt in their cottages, which fire is uſed alſo for all culinary purpoſes. The whole quantities of peats to ſupply which fires, are ſo inconſiderable as to be carried home by the indignent tenants of theſe cottages, on their backs in creels or caſies made with ſtraw; the extra quantity required for the ſaid purpoſe muſt be ſmall indeed! This ſalt, ſuch as it was, uſed to be carried in ſmall parcels by the makers of it to other neighbouring iſlands, where they received from the pooreſt of the inhabitants, who could not afford to purchaſe ſalt of a good quality, equal quantities of meal for the ſalt which they brought. By ſuch traffic, the poor people of Eday procured, in a very laborious way, a ſcanty ſupply of meal for their families in the winter ſeaſon, when the ſtormy weather did not permit their going a fiſhing, on which buſineſs many in this iſland depend chiefly for daily bread. This reſtriction has induced ſome, and, if not removed, or ſome other remedy provided, will probably induce many more of theſe poor families to migrate to other iſlands, if not to other countries.

The whole moſſes in the iſland of Stronſay belong to the proprietor of Rothesholm, from which moſſes the whole inhabitants of this iſland, for time immemorial, have ſupplied their families with peats, upon making ſmall acknowledgements, in money or other articles, to the tenant of Rothesholm. This practice continued to the mutual ſatisfaction of the inhabitants, and of the

Horſes, Black Cattle, &c.—The horſes in this diſtrict, and through Orkney in general, are of a hardy nature and ſmall ſize, the largeſt are ſeldom above 14 hands high; great numbers of them, when only one year old, are brought from the neighbouring

the tenant of ſaid lands, (without any interference of the proprietor,) until the laſt general election of members of Parliament, when the election for the county of Orkney happened, (unfortunately for a great number of the inhabitants of this iſland,) to be diſputed; for in conſequence thereof, ſuch tenants of the ſucceſsful candidate, as live in this iſland, and the tenants of his political friends, by the expreſs order of the proprietor of Rothesholm to his tenant, were ſtrictly prohibited from caſting in, and leading peats from his moſſes on any terms whatever. Theſe tenants, when laid under this intolerable hardſhip, conſcious that they had not done any thing to merit this gentleman's diſpleaſure, thought it exceedingly hard, and even unjuſt, that they ſhould be ſo ſeverely puniſhed for offences of which they were not guilty; did venture, notwithſtanding the foreſaid order and prohibition, after previouſly having made offer to the tenant of Rothesholm of the uſual acknowgements, to perſiſt in their poſſeſſion of the ſaid moſſes, by caſting, winning, and leading peats for the uſe of their families, according to cuſtom, and ancient practice. But this conduct of theſe tenants occaſioned a law ſuit before the Court of Seſſion, which was lately decided in favours of the proprietor of the moſs, at whoſe inſtance it had been raiſed.

This reſtriction and deciſion, will ſoon be found a great cauſe of diminiſhing the inhabitants of this iſland, as the tenants above mentioned, and their cottars, cannot live without ſuch a neceſſary article as fire; and their circumſtances in general, are not ſuch as to enable them to purchaſe and carry coals from England or from the Frith of Forth, to ſupply their families, and the families of their ſub-tenants and cottars, with firing.

Moreover, an improper practice hath crept into this diſtrict, of not only increaſing the wages of unmarried men ſervants and boys, employed in farm work, to more than three times the amount of what they were ſatisfied with about thirty years ago; but certain portions of land have been given to many of them by their maſters, from which they have reaped crops of victual, which they have ſold for ſeveral years paſt, after defraying the expence of labour, at ſuch ſums, as, with other wages and perquiſites, received by them annually from their maſters, hath ariſen to, and in ſome inſtances exceeded

the

neighbouring county of Caithneſs, to the annual fair at Kirkwall in Orkney, in the month of Auguſt, which laſts about ten days: To this fair, not only horſes from Caithneſs, but cattle, and all other ſaleable commodities, are brought from the different iſlands in Orkney, the annual buſineſs of all ranks is ſettled, horſes, and ſuch other articles, as country people require, are purchaſed and carried home with them to the iſlands of their reſpective habitations.

The beſt of the Caithneſs ſtaigs, or year old horſes, have, for ſeveral years paſt, ſold for from 6l. to 7l. The beſt work oxen of the Orkney breed, for 4l., milch cows at 3l., ſheep at 6s., ſwine at 10s., geeſe 1s. 3d., hens 6d. each, all Sterling money, in the town of Kirkwall, which is the only market place to which butcher meat, and other vivers, can be brought from this diſtrict, and the other North iſles, and Eaſt parts of Pomona, or the mainland of Orkney.

Animals of inferior ſize, of the ſorts above mentioned, are ſold at proportionably lower prices. There are in this diſtrict to the number of about

	Horſes.	Black Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.	Geeſe.	Two-ox carts.	Boats.
In Stronſay.	500	900	3000	300	700	27	55
In Eday.	120	300	2000	100	120	5	34
Amount of ſtock.	620	1200	5000	400	820	32	89

the amount of what a cottar or bollman, and his wife can earn annually for the ſupport of themſelves and family of young children. This injudicious practice, if perſiſted in, cannot fail of being a mighty diſcouragement of marriage and of population; but it may be rectified, in a great meaſure, by the united exertions of the tenants, or ſociety of farmers in Stronſay, with the concurrence of the heritors, by adopting the plan explained under the 6th article.

The before mentioned grievances, under which many of the pariſhioners labour, are prejudicial to the general intereſt of the diſtrict; and to the community at large, it is preſumeable, therefore, that adequate remedies will be applied, as ſoon as circumſtances will permit the neceſſary regulations to take effect.

Minerals.—A vein of lead was diſcovered, many years ago, on the eſtate of Huip. (John Balfour, Eſq; preſent member of Parliament for Orkney, is landholder.) By order of Mr Thomas Balfour deceaſed, the late proprietor, and uncle to the foreſaid John Balfour, ſpecimens of ore from this vein were dug up, and ſent to be examined by people of ſkill; but the report ſeems not to have been of a flattering nature, for no attempts have hitherto been made to work it.

A mineral Spring, (or rather three adjacent ſprings of Chalybeate water, all of different degrees of ſtrength,) is to be found among the rocks, on the Eaſt coaſt of the iſland of Stronſay. The water, clear as chryſtal, not unpleaſant, is full of fixed air, as may be eaſily diſcovered by any who drink ſome glaſſes of it; for they will ſoon find themſelves affected in the ſame way, as if they had drank ſome fine briſk bottled ſmall bear *.

* This ſpring is called the Well of Kildinguie. Tradition ſays, that it was held in ſuch high repute when the Orkney iſlands belonged to the Crown of Denmark, (above three hundred years ago,) that people of the firſt rank, came from Denmark and Norway to drink the waters. Towards the ſouth eaſt, at about two miles diſtance, the greateſt part of the way conſiſts of a flat ſand along the ſea ſhore; there is a place called Guiyidn, on the rocks of which, that ſpecies of ſea-weed called dulſe, is to be found in abundance; which weed, is conſidered by many to be a delicious and wholeſome morſel. The drinking of theſe waters, the moderate exerciſe of walking over two miles of dry level ground, gathering and eating dulſe on the rocks, they being expoſed to a wholeſome ſharp ſea breeze, from whatever quarter the wind could blow; this happy combination of circumſtances was found ſuch a ſovereign remedy for the numberleſs complaints of thoſe, who in ancient times reſorted to this famous watering place, that it gave riſe to a proverb which is ſtill retained in this iſland, viz. "The well of Kildinguie, and the dulſe of Guiyidn, can cure all maladies except black death."—That is, can cure all maladies which are not abſolutely incurable.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Ancient and Modern.—About the time of the Reformation, there were five pariſh kirks in this diſtrict. Three in the iſland of Stronſay, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, to St. Peter and St. Nicholas; the fourth in the iſland of Eday, dedicated alſo to the Virgin Mary; and the fifth in the iſle of Fairy, to what ſaint dedicated, tradition gives no information.

There were alſo, in the iſland of Stronſay, at leaſt four chapels, one of which is called St. Margaret's kirk; two chaples in the ſmall iſle of Papa, dedicated to St. Nicholas and to St. Bride reſpectively. St. Nichola's chapel was almoſt entire twelve years ago; the dimenſions within walls 15 feet by 12; the quire, 7 feet by 9; this quire is covered with a complete ſtone arch, but the chapel hath been lately demoliſhed by the tenant, in order that he with the ſtones of it might build a new barn. St. Bride's chapel and Quire, now in ruins, are nearly of the ſame dimenſions as thoſe of St. Nicholas. About half way between theſe chapels, there is, on a riſing ground, called the Earl's-know, the appearance of old ruins and graves; one of which graves, evidently defined by two ſtones, one at the head, the other at the feet, is eight feet and a half long; this grave was dug up to the deepneſs of about ſix feet, in the month of July 1792; the ſtones at the head and feet, which appeared about a foot above

This ſpring is at the diſtance of about half a mile from the miniſter's manſe, in a pleaſant healthy ſituation. There is a large commodious houſe in the neighbourhood, built about forty years ago, for the accommodation of a gentleman with a large family, one of the heritors, and at that time miniſter of this pariſh; but his heirs have removed from this iſland. This houſe, therefore, might be eaſily fitted up, and would be found very commodious for ſea-bathing or water drinking quarters, for thoſe whoſe conſtitutions or inclinations require the application of ſuch harmleſs, ſafe, and uſeful remedies.

above the ſurface, reached to the bottom of the grave. Many human bones of an ordinary ſize were found, and, moreover, fragments of a human ſkull, and of a lower jaw bone, with the caſe of teeth, which were perfectly ſound, and fragments of thigh bones; theſe were all of an enormous ſize, and afforded a convincing proof that the body burried there had required a grave of the dimenſions above ſpecified. There is an old chapel in ruins on the iſland of Eday, and one in each of the paſture iſles, called Linga, Meikle, and Auſkerry; in this laſt, there are alſo ruins of what ſeems to have been a ſmall houſe, which retains the appellation of the monker houſe, or monk's houſe; ſuch recluſes might no doubt have lived in this iſle, as there is plenty of freſh water in it; the diſtance, however, at which it lies from the iſland of Stronſay, is no leſs than three miles. Thus we find there have been of old five pariſh kirks, and at leaſt nine chapels in this diſtrict*.

* In the foundation of the Cathedral kirk of Orkney, confirmed by Cardinal Beaton, on the application of Lord Robert Steuart, (who was a natural uncle of Mary Queen of Scots and) Biſhop of Orkney, it is recited, that before that period, "only ſix canons, and as many chaplains, were erected in the ſaid "Cathedral kirk of St. Magnus in Orkney, which are ſtated to be too few "to bear the labours and incumbent burdens in ſinging praiſes in the hours "of the nights and days in the ſaid kirk, and for divine ſervice, as becomes "ſuch a kirk." Accordingly, a provoſtry, a arch deaconry, chantory, chancellory, ſub-deanry and ſub-chantory; likewiſe ſeven other canons and and prebendars, thirteen chaplains, named vicars of the quire, and ſix boys, who might be reſpectively admit in ſciences, and otherwiſe qualified. Theſe were of new erected, conſtituted, and founded. The deed proceeds in theſe terms: "By the tenor of thir preſents, judges, ſtatutes, and ordains, that "which we judge belongs to every one: The *firſt*, the provoſt, Mr Mal"colm Halero, batchelor in holy letters, the prebendary of holy Trinity, and "vicarage of Ronald Shay, with holding up the kirk of Burwick. 2*d*, To the

The value of the ſtipend of this diſtrict, in 1633, was formerly ſtated, the particular articles then paid, continue yet to be paid, with the exceptions of ſome vicarage and parſonage

" the arch-deacon, Mr John Tayrie, the arch-deacon's ancient rights, the " miniſter of Birſay and chaplainry of St. Ollay within the cathedral kirk, " with holding up the kirk of Harry. 3*d*, To the chantor, Mr Nicol Ha- " lero, the prebendary of Orpher and vicarage of Stenhouſe. 4*th*, To the " chancellor, Mr Alexander Scott, the prebendary of St. Mary of Sandy and " vicarage of Sandy. 5*th*, To the treaſurer, Sir Steven Culroſs, the parſon- " age of St. Nicholas of Stronſay and vicarage of Stronſay. 6*th*, To the ſub- " dean, Mr Peter Howſton, the parſonage of Hoy and vicarage of Walls. " 7*th*, To the ſub-chantor, Sir Magnus Strange, the prebendary of St. Colme. " 8*th*, To the firſt prebendar, Sir Thomas Richardſon, the parſonage of Croſs " kirk in Sandy. 9*th*, To Sir Hugh Halero, the prebendary of St. Magnus. " 10*th*, To Mr Henry Barton, the chaplainry of St. John the Evangeliſt, in " the ſaid cathedral kirk. 11*th*, To Mr Walter Thomſon, the chaplainry " of St Mary and vicarage of St. Mary. 12*th*, To Mr John Maxwell, the " chaplainry of St Laurence. 13*th*, To Sir David Chriſtiſon, the prebendary " of St. Catharine. 14*th*, To Mr Robert Malcolmſon, the prebendary of St. " Duthas. *Chaplains*,—The 1*ſt*, of St. Peter, ſhall be maſter of the grammar " ſchool. 2*d*, Of St Auguſtine, ſhall be maſter of the ſong ſchool. Which " two maſters ſhall be found to teach freely all the boys of the quire and the " poor willing to be preſent. 3*d*, The biſhop's quiriſter. 4*th*, The provoſt's. " 5*th*, The arch-dean's. 6*th*, The precentor's. 7*th*, The chancellor's. 8*th*, " The treaſurer's. 9*th*, The ſub dean's 10*th*, The prebendary of Holy " Croſs. 11*th*, The prebendary of St Mary. 12*th*, The chaplain of St. " Cathraine. 13*th*, The chaplain of Holy Croſs. And every one of the " quiriſters ſhall have one laſt of victual and alſo ten merks Scots money for " their ſtipend in the year, beſides the daily diſtributions which ſhall be from " the rents of vicarage of the cathedral kirk, and from the foundation of un- " cle Thomas, biſhop of Orkney and Zetland; and twelve pounds from the " foundation of the moſt illuſtrious late Kings of Scotland, James III. and " James IV. paid by the biſhop for the daily maſſes of St. Mary, the maſſes " of the holy blood in firſt holy day, and the regimen of the ſecond holy day " though the whole year. An inferior ſervant, (*ſacriſta*,) about holy things, " ſhall ring the bells, light the lamps, carry the water and fire to the kirk, " who ought to have the accuſtomed revenue, and forty ſhillings from the " biſhop;

age tithes then paid in kind, which at different periods afterwards were converted into money at low rates, by mutual contracts between tenants or heritors, on the one part, and miniſters

" biſhop; he ſhould be clad with an honeſt ſurplice, and go before the proceſ-
" ſion with a white wand after the manner of a bedlar. But the firſt of the
" ſix boys ſhall be nominate and ſuſtained by the biſhop. The *2d*, By the
" prebendar of St. Magnus. *3d*, By the prebendar of St. John. *4th*, By the
" prebendar of St. Laurence. *5th*, By the prebendar of St. Catharine. *6th*,
" By the prebendar of St. Duthas. And every one of them ſhall have twenty
" ſhillings in the year. They ſhall be taper-bearers, and ſhall ſing the re-
" ſponſes. Moreover, we aſſign to the ſaid provoſt, dignities, canons and pre-
" bendars, certain defunct lands for the manſes of every one of them at the
" ſaid cathedral kirk. But our will is, that every one of them, within three
" years after getting peaceable poſſeſſion of their benefices, to build an honeſt
" manſe, according to the value of the fruits of the benefice in which he may
" reſt or ſleep, otherwiſe he ſhall not be judged to reſide among others.
" Likewiſe, we will and ordain a vicar an continual penſion of ten merks
" Scots money, and an half laſt of victual every year, with the manſe of eve-
" ry paroch vicarage erected in the preſent foundation, from the fruits and
" emoluments nomned and impoſed by us and our ſucceſſors; who ſhall be
" bound to ſerve his cure perſonally by himſelf as oft as it ſhall be vacant, if
" need ſhall be. But the biſhop ſhall be canon of St. Ollay, &c.; which ap-
" plication is atteſted and ſubſcribed by the biſhop and his chapter, on the
" 28th October, 1544 years, before theſe witneſſes, honourable, honeſt and
" diſcreet men, viz; by (ſigned) *Robertus Orcadin*, Epiſcopus, *Nicholas*
" *Halero* de Orphar, manu propria; *Stephanus Culros*, rector de Stronſay;
" *Petrus Houſton*, rector de Hoy; *Joannes Maxwell*, rector *Beatæ Mariæ*,
" de Sanday; *Malcolmus Halèro*, archideaconus Zetlandiæ, ac prebendariæ
" Sanctæ Trinitatis, *Magnus Strang*, prebendarius Sanctæ Columbæ. After
reciting fully the application above mentioned, with the atteſtations thereof, the foundation proceeds to the confirmation and erection above ſpecified, and ſanctions it in theſe terms: " But if any one ſhall preſume to contra-
" vene or infringe, as God forbid, this preſent foundation, in whole or in any
" part thereof, directly or indirectly, by whatever colour or pretence, he ſhall
" know, that he will incur the wrath of Almighty God, of the bleſſed Vir-
" gin Mary, and of all the ſaints, and eſpecially of St Magnus our patron,

" &c.

miniſters for the time being, on the other; therefore, the ſtipend, in ſtead of being augmented ſince the ſaid year 1653, is actually diminiſhed and made worſe than it was in 1614, by

" &c. Dated and done in the Caſtle of St Andrew's, at 11 hours forenoon, or " thereabout, in the year of the incarnation of the Lord, Jaiv, and forty " five, upon Tueſday the twentie ane day of July, being the third indiction " of the popedom of our moſt ſerene father and Lord in Chriſt, Paul the " third, by the providence of God, the eleventh year. Venerable and cir- " cumſpect men being preſent there, viz. Sir James Strachertſyne, &c. " (Signed,) JOANNES MAIR, *Præpoſitus Collegii Sancti Salvatoris, manu propria.*"

The preceding excerps were taken from a double or copy of ſaid foundation, which appears to have been a long verboſe deed; a full copy of which could not be eaſily contained in leſs than fifty pages.

The following excerpt was taken from the regiſter of aſſignations for the miniſters ſtipends through Scotland, for the year 1574, which regiſter was given in compliment by Biſhop Keith to the Advocates library in Edinburgh, on 18th Auguſt 1746.

" *Mary kirk in Stronſay, Peter kirk, St Nicholas Kirk.*

" Miniſter, his ſtipend to be paid as follows, viz. The " thred of the feuarie of Orkney, extending to ane chalder nine bolls three " parts bear, and eleven pounds eleven ſhillings one penny, and two parts " ſilver, to be paid by the pariſhioners and tackſmen of St Nicholas, parochine " of Stronſay and North Stronſay."

Ethay and Fairay.

" Mr James Maxwell reader of thir kirks, his ſtipend twenty pounds, to " be paid furth of the thred of his own benefice, the twa chaplainries St Ca- " tharine's, prebendary and vicarage of Stronſay, with the vicar's manſe and " gleib."

By an act of Platt or proviſion of ſtipends, for the kirks of Orkney in the year 1614, which proceeding on, and referring to a contract of Excambion, betwixt King James the VI. on the one part, and Biſhop James Law, and the chapter of the cathedral kirk of Orkney, on the other part, " The provi- " ſions and aſſignations for the miniſters in the biſhoprick, are ſaid to have " left unexhauſted not meikle more than two hundred pounds of the haill " quantity of the thirds aſſumed, alloting to thoſe particular kirks, within the " biſhoprick after ſpecified, to wit.

" 1. Ta

by means of ſaid converſions, which are now found detrimental to the intereſt of the miniſter. The riſe in value of the commodities paid in kind, was found to be ſo inconſiderable, that down

		Laſts, Meils.			*Meils of Malt.*
" 1. To Walls and Flotta,		1	4	. or	28
" 2. Floy. 6 barrels butter, and ball,		3	20	. or	92
" 3. Stromneſs and Sandwich. 6 ditto		3	12	. or	84
" 4 Orphir. . . 6 ——		3	12	. or	84
" 5. Holm. . . 6 ——		3	14	. or	86
" 6. Shapenſtray. . . 6 ——		3	—	. or	72
" 7. The reader in Kirkwall. 6 ——		.	12	. —	12
" And to the moderator. . .		One hundred pounds.			

" Then the haill remanent kirks, being of his Majeſty's annexed property, " are for moſt part altogether unprovided; and thoſe who have any thing at " all, has yet ſo ſmall means of maintenance, as no honeſt man will under- " take to ſerve them. Therefore reſolved to unite and incorporate together, " ſuch paroch kirks as might be conjoined, ſo as to reduce the number of " kirks and miniſters, to ſuch a few quantity, and their ſtipends ſuch a mo- " derate proportion, as might be the leaſt diminution poſſible of his High- " neſs rent, as well for the help and ſupply of ſuch kirks, as are meanly found- " ed, as for the proviſion of others, which have no ſtipends. To allow with " the leaſt detriment poſſible to his Majeſty's rents, in the *1ſt*, to the two " pariſh kirks of South Ronaldſtray, and pariſh kirk in Burray united, the " the miniſters ſtipend to be helped with 200 merks.

" *2d*, The two kirks of St Andrews and Deerneſs, in the mainland of " Orkney, united, the miniſter's ſtipend 400 merks money, with the glebes " and vicarages of the ſaid kirks.

" *3d*, Birſay and Harray, twa pariſh kirks in the mainland, united, the " miniſter's ſtipend 400 merks, with the glebes and vicarages of the ſaid " kirks.

" *4th*, Evie and Rendal, twa pariſh kirks in the mainland, united, the mini- " ſter's ſtipend 300 merks, with the manſe, glebes and vicarages of the ſaid " kirks.

" *5th*, The iſle of Rouſay and Egliſtray, twa pariſh kirks united, the mi- " niſter's ſtipend 300 merks, with the glebes and vicarages of the ſaid kirks.

" *6th*, The iſles of Weſtray and Papa Weſtray, united, the miniſter's ſti- " pend to be helped 300 merks, with the vicarage, manſe and glebes.

" *7th*,

down to the date of the incumbent's admiſſion, in 1779, this whole benefice, including ſtipend and glebes, was let for a period of ten or twelve years preceding, from year to year, at no greater ſum than 54 l. Sterling; out of this ſmall benefice, the miniſter is obliged to pay one ſhilling Sterling of freight every time he paſſes over the ferry to preach in the iſland of Eday. There is no fund for communion elements, as the ſtipend was never modified by the court of Teinds. Lord Dundas is patron.

The kirks were in a ruinous ſtate in 1779. The kirk of Stronſay, which was built in 1726, got new ſlates put on its roof in 1685, but it ſtill needs great repairs. The kirk of Eday, which was built about the year 1730, is in a ruinous ſtate; it had not a pane of glaſs in any of its windows in the memory of any man living. As it is ſituated at ſeven miles diſtance from the manſe, and in another iſland, and in ſo bad

" *7th*, Burneſs and the iſle of Sanday, and North Ronaldſtray, twa pa-
" riſh kirks united, the miniſters ſtipend 300 merks, with manſe, glebes, and
" viccarage of North Ronaldſtray.

" *8th*, Stronſay, Eday, and Fairay, four pariſh kirks united, the miniſter's
" ſtipend to be helped with 200 merks.

" *9th*, Firth, and Stenhouſe, twa pariſh kirks in the mainland, to be pro-
" vided with three hundred merks, of the ſurplus of biſhops thirds, with the
" viccarage, glebes, and manſe, of the ſaid kirks.

" It being alwiſe therewith declared, that his gratitude for the help and
" ſupply, and proviſion of theſe kirks, extending in the year to the ſum of
" two thouſand four hundred merks, payable furth of his Majeſty's rents;
" and duty of the tack thereof, ſet by his Majeſty to Lord Ochiltrie for certain
" years. The which ſum divided among the ſaid united kirks in manner above
" ſpecified, by the ſaid James Law, now Arch-Biſhop of Glaſgow, ſhall re-
" main as a ſolid and conſtant aſſignation, enduring the time of continuance
" of the preſent tack, &c."

bad a ſtate, the miniſter will not be able to officiate there at all, if the heritors do not rebuild or repair it*.

Poors Funds and Schools.—A houſe and ſmall parcel of land was mortified to the poor of the pariſh of Stronſay about fifty years ago, into the poſſeſſion of which one of the principal heritors ſlipt in a clandeſtine manner, during the vacancy of the pariſh, at leaſt during the inſane ſtate of mind into which the miniſter had fallen, about twenty three years ago; and that after this heritable ſubject had been many years in the poſſeſſion of the miniſter and kirk ſeſſion of Stronſay, as truſtees for the poor. Theſe truſtees, ſeveral years paſt, have been have been uſing legal means, all others having proved unſucceſsful, to recover their poſſeſſion and property.

The kirk ſeſſions of Stronſay and Eday have no other funds for the relief of indigent objects, except the weekly and ſacramental collections, with ſome ſmall penalties from delinquents; in all, not exceeding 8 l. Sterling yearly, out of which, the ſeſſion clerks and kirk officers ſalaries muſt be paid; ſo that, after paying for coffins for thoſe on the poor's roll who die annually, the pittance is very ſmall, indeed, which remains to be diſtributed among the moſt deſtitute objects in theſe united pariſhes, whoſe number amounts, at an average, to twenty five.

* A decreet of the presbytery of North iſles went out in the year 1780, for repairing the manſe, and building offices. But theſe repairs and buildings are not yet executed; they are indeed far from being compleated.

The miniſter gave the heritors no charge on this decreet, till ſeven years after its date, in hopes that there would be no neceſſity for charging them; but theſe hopes were fruſtrated; accordingly, he gave them a charge, which they inſtantly ſuſpended, and they have litigated the cauſe for other ſeven years before the Court of Seſſion, and before arbiters, whoſe final decreet hath not as yet been given out.

As few or none of the heritors reſide within the bounds of this diſtrict, and as not any of the non-reſiding heritors contribute any ſum whatever for the maintenance of the poor; their ſupport muſt depend on the families of the miniſter and pariſhioners.

The heritors of Stronſay agreed, about fifteen years ago, to give a ſalary of three pounds Sterling to a ſchoolmaſter. But this ſalary, ſmall though it be, hath not been regularly paid; and to procure, in terms of law, a ſalary and ſchool-houſe, would infer greater expence than the miniſter can, in his preſent circumſtances, afford. The heritors are unwilling, and the pariſhioners of Stronſay and of Eday are unable, to accompliſh this deſireable end. A ſociety-ſchool hath, for ſeveral years paſt, been a great benefit to the poor children in the pariſh of Stronſay. Such a ſchool is highly neceſſary in the iſland of Eday; but numberleſs applications, at different periods, by the miniſter to the ſociety for propagating chriſtian knowledge, have been rejected, on account of a regulation which that ſociety have long adopted; viz. to eſtabliſh their ſchools only in pariſhes which have parochial ſchools or ſalaries paid by ſome of the heritors or by the pariſhioners.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The ſituation of this diſtrict, ſurrounded as it is by the ſea, and at a moderate elevation above the level of it, is thus rendered wholeſome and agreeable, particularly during the ſummer months, when the ſeaſons are dry and warm; but as it is expoſed to heavy rains and thick weather in winter, with gales of wind in ſpring and autumn, thoſe who cannot eaſily put up with retirement, and to be confined within narrow bounds, for ſeven or eight months, muſt find it an uncomfortable place of reſidence.

Some

Some of the on-call work, or undefined ſervices of ancient times, are ſtill exacted; which circumſtance, with the great proportion of gloomy and wet weather to which the inhabitants are expoſed, and the little encouragement given by the higher ranks of people to their inferiors, to excite a ſpirit of emulation, and to promote improvements in agriculture and manufactures, give the inhabitants, in general, and the lower ranks in particular, a demure aſpect, and contribute, perhaps, in ſome meaſure, to introduce and propagate certain maladies, which have unfortunately become too common in this diſtrict; particulary ſevere colds, rheumatiſms, conſumptions, paralytic complaints, and ſymptoms of inſanity*.

* The following caſe may perhaps appear ſingular. A young girl, in the iſland of Stronſay, named Jean Brown, the daughter of a poor labourer, in the year 1783, when about eleven years of age, was affected with pains all over her body; theſe at firſt continued only a few days, but recurred each fortnight periodically, for a conſiderable number of months. Afterwards, the pains returned monthly, were of longer continuance and proved more violent, and her ſpeech became greatly affected. In this ſtate ſhe remained about two years. After which period, her intervals of ſickneſs and health gradually approached to an equality of duration, and ſucceeded each other quarterly; that is, in ſpring and autumn, ſhe was greatly diſtreſſed and loſt her ſpeech entirely; her pains increaſed to ſuch a degree, that ſhe groaned and moaned perpetually when awake; ſhe could ſit in a chair, and could move ſlowly about the ſides of the houſes, leaning to ſuch things as ſhe found in her way. In the ſummer and winter quarters her pains abated, and ſhe recovered her ſpeech. In this ſtate ſhe continued until the month of May 1793, which was the periodical ſeaſon of her recovery; in ſtead of which, ſhe continued exceedingly diſtreſſed, for about ſix months; when ſhe again, to the great ſurpriſe and joy of her parents, recovered not only her ſpeech, but likewiſe her health, in ſuch a degree, as to be inclined to engage to go to ſervice laſt winter, which engagement ſhe actually performed. Whether her pains will continue to return periodically, and at increaſing intervals of time, as formerly, is a ſubject for the medical faculty to diſcuſs. This caſe baffled the

Character and Manners of the Inhabitants.—The narrow and reſtricted boundaries of the inhabitants of theſe iſlands, circumſcribed as they are by the ſea, have a tendency to elevate the minds of thoſe who move in the higher ranks of

ſkill of all the doctors to whom this poor girl's parents had acceſs; at leaſt, every medicine which could be procured, was ineffectual to obtain for her any eaſe or relief from trouble.,

Another extraordinary caſe, is, of a young girl in the ſame iſland of Stronſay, whoſe name is Iſabel Sinclair: Her father poſſeſſes a ſmall farm as ſubtenant: His affairs have been embarraſſed, and his family reduced to ſtraits by his daughter's illneſs. In November 1785, at eight years of age, when going to a well for water, ſhe was inſtantaneouſly ſtruck with what was ſuppoſed to be the palſy. She was carried to her father's houſe ſpeechleſs, and almoſt totally deſtitute of the uſe of her limbs, and ſeemed to have little or no exerciſe of her mental faculties; ſhe was afterwards entirely confined to her bed. During which confinement, ſhe was ſometimes lifted up and carried to an elbow chair, where ſhe ſat for ſome hours, and behoved to be carried back again to her bed. She could hardly lift up her eyes, and ſometimes appeared to be in great diſtreſs. Her appetite, however, did not forſake her, and ſhe advanced in growth, no leſs progreſſively than if ſhe had been in health; but, unfortunately, for the mean ſtation of her parents, there was little meat or drink of the produce of Orkney which ſhe could receive into her mouth; and when ſhe did receive and ſwallow the uſual country fare, it did not reſt on her ſtomach but came up again. Flour, barley, biſcuit, peaſe, which are exotics, with potatoes and milk, of Orkney produce, were the proviſions by which ſhe was nouriſhed. She eat ſo freely, that, though deſtitute of common exerciſe and freſh open air, the growth of her perſon advanced as quickly as if ſhe had been in health,

In this diſtreſſed and diſmal ſtate ſhe remained for nine compleat years. ſhe was averſe to take medicines of any ſort, which, however, were often procured for her, in hopes that they would contribute to her recovery; and when ſhe took them, they had no influence on her ſtate of health. In the month of November 1793, after a violent and painful ſtruggle one night, ſhe, to the great joy of her parents, and to the aſtoniſhment of all who had ſeen or heard of her ſingular malady, recovered her ſpeech and the exerciſe of her mental faculties; upon which ſhe ſoon expreſſed deſire for clean cloaths, and to be dreſſed, (which ſhe had not been during her nine years illneſs,) that ſhe might

of life, and to inſpire them with a degree of importance, to which ſtrangers are frequently inclined to diſpute the juſtneſs of their claim. The heritors, in general, have not yet exhibited ready diſpoſitions to encourage and reward an active ſpirit of induſtry and improvement, by lengthening the leaſes of their tenants, or otherwiſe; but, on the contrary, have overlooked ſuch indications of ſpirit, when exhibited by their tenants, and have been ready to attribute their conſequent ſucceſs to the lucrative terms on which they held their poſſeſſions, and accordingly made this a pretence for exacting more rent; with which demand, however unreaſonable, if the induſtrious farmers did not comply, others, leſs ſkilful, or leſs active, have been preferred, merely by ſhowing a readineſs to agree to terms, which, inſtead of being able to implement, they have found, on trial, that they were unable to pay up even the old rent excluſive of the additional rent.

This conduct tends greatly to diſcourage tenants, and hath contributed much to prevent any improvement of the ſoil, from a dread thus excited in the minds of the tenants of being diſpoſſeſſed, or of being obliged to promiſe more rent than they could afford to pay. To this cauſe, a ſuſpicious and diſtruſtful ſpirit between heritors, tenants, and ſub-tenants, may in a great meaſure be aſcribed. Hence a deſire to conceal their property and their gains, one from another, and to take undue advantages, when an opportunity occurs, by way of retaliation, for real or imaginary injuries done them.

The

might get out of bed. She was then very week and feeeble, as might naturally be expected; ſhe gradually recovered, though ſlowly; ſhe now converſes rationably, and appears to have ſuitable impreſſions of pious gratitude for her recovery.

Of thoſe who have been affected or cut off by the other maladies above mentioned, it is unneceſſary to ſpecify inſtances, as their caſes appeared to be of a common kind.

The inhabitants are, in general, of an obliging, kind, hoſpitable diſpoſition to one another, and alſo to ſtrangers; eſpecially when, on particular occaſions, as at weddings, baptiſms, &c. they have it in their power to gratify that ſpirit of importance, which they poſſeſs, by furniſhing entertainments in a ſtile ſuperior to what might be expected from their ſtations and circumſtances in life. On theſe occaſions, the higheſt compliment which the gueſts can confer on their entertainer, is to ſit to a very late hour, and to partake freely of the beſt things ſet before them.§

Miſcellaneous

§ It is to be lamented that the heritors, not only in this diſtrict, but through Orkney, in general, are not ſo ready, as might be expected, to unite with the miniſters of the goſpel in promoting the cauſe of religion and virtue, with regard to parochial ſchools and a proviſion for the poor, as above ſtated; they, moreover, do frequently manifeſt a diſinclination to build or repair ſuitable kirks and manſes, and to make a decent proviſion for the ſupport of the clergy, by which the intereſts of religion are materially injured, and the eſtabliſhed clergymen, with their families, greatly diſtreſſed.

The iſſue of ſome tedious and expenſive law ſuits, it is to be hoped, will not only open the eyes of the laity to their own intereſt, but the preſent ſtate of public affairs will, it is preſumed, effectually convince them, that the intereſts of the clergy, of the laity, and of all ranks in ſociety, are ſo blended and mutually connected, that it is true wiſdom and ſound policy, to ſtrengthen by combining, rather than to weaken by dividing them; eſpecially as a ſuitable proviſion, and the accomodation of kirks and manſes, are eſſentially requiſite to the decent and regular diſcharge of a clergyman's office, which conſiſts chiefly in explaining and in calculating the doctrines and precepts of our holy religion; which will invariably be found the moſt effectual means to ſecure a due ſubordination of ranks in ſociety; which ſubordinations is eſſential to the happineſs of the community, as well as the beſt means to promote the ſpiritual and temporal intereſt of individuals.

The common people of this diſtrict remain to this day ſo credulous, as to think that fairies do exiſt; that an inferior ſpecies of witch-craft is ſtill practiſed, and that houſes have been haunted, not only in former ages, but that they

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The center of the Orkney iſlands lies in latitude 56° North. The weather is in general moderate,

they are haunted, at leaſt noiſes are heard, which cannot be accounted for on rational principles, even in our days. An inſtance of the latter happened only three years ago, in the houſe of John Spence, boat-carpenter, which houſe ſtands within the diſtance of a quarter of a mile from the manſe of Stronſay. In the month of April 1791, this carpenter had almoſt compleated a boat, which he had on the ſtocks: He, his wife, his ſervant, and his children, one night ſometime after they were laid in bed, heard a noiſe reſembling what he had been accuſtomed to make when driving nails into the boat. It continued a long time. He ſuppoſed it to be boys, who having come that way at a late hour, were amuſing themſelves. At laſt he got up, and went on with an intention to reprove and diſmiſs them. The noiſe ceaſed on his going out of doors to the boat, which ſtood hard by his houſe; but he could neither ſee nor hear any body. The noiſe was heard by all the family, not only that night, but many nights after; not nightly, in conſtant ſucceſſion, but at irregular intervals. Whilſt the boat lay on the ſtocks, it was ſtill apprehended that the noiſe proceeded from it, although no marks of ſtrokes could bde ecerned, even after it had been newly covered over with tar, within and without, when the leaſt touch will make an impreſſion. The miſtreſs of the houſe and the children were alarmed; at her earneſt requeſt, therefore, in order to remove effectually the ſuppoſed cauſe of the noiſe, the boat when finiſhed, was ſent home, which happened to be to a place on the other ſide of the iſland, from which place the noiſe could not reach the carpenter's houſe. Yet lo! and behold! the ſame noiſe continned, even when there was no boat on the ſtocks, and that for no leſs than four months; and as the time elapſed, the noiſe increaſed with ſtill louder and quicker ſtrokes, until it came to reſemble the ſtrokes of two men hard at work on a ſmith's anvil. It uttered at laſt, not only the ſounds of much fatigue, when men are employed in ſuch work, but moans of great diſtreſs.

All which ſeemed to this family to proceed ſometimes from one quarter, and at other times from another quarter within their houſe. Some of the neighbours were brought to ſleep in the houſe, in order to diſcover the deluſion or impoſition, if any ſuch exiſted. The ſame noiſe, at the uſual time of the night, was heard by theſe neighbours as well as by the family. The maſter of the houſe himſelf began at laſt to be ſomewhat alarmed; but, putting his truſt in God, he reſolved to addreſs this ſupernatural diſturber, and to aſk

moderate, and the climate temperate. But gales of wind, in the end of July, or the beginning of Auguſt, have ſometimes greatly

what it meant or what it wanted: Accordingly, in the month of Auguſt following, one night after he had lain ſometime in bed with his wife and children, upon hearing the laſt mentioned aggravated noiſe, accompanied with diſmal groans, he ſat up in his bed, and ſolemnly conjured it, in the name of the Holy Trinity, to ſpeak, if it had any thing to ſay to him. Inarticulate ſounds of a faultering tongue unable to ſpeak, accompanied with diſmal groans, were heard.

The noiſe ſoon after ceaſed, and did not return any more to diſturb this family. The preceding account the miniſter frequently heard from the ſaid John Spence, and alſo from his wife, when ſeparately examined by him on this ſubject, on which occaſions they always appeared grave and ſerious.

In this eminently enlightened age, when atheiſm and irreligion have been very active in bringing, not only ſuperſtition and enthuſiaſm, but religion itſelf to the Guillotine, it is highly probable, that the traits of character now exhibited will be held in deriſion, and the drawer therof expoſed to infinite ridicule on account of the preceding narrative, by thoſe who glory in being ſuperior to vulgar prejudices. If this ſhould be the caſe, he will not attempt to remonſtrate, but only humbly propoſe the following queries. *1ſt*, Are the inconſiderable remains of ſuperſtition and enthuſiaſm, which do affect the character only in ſmall and unimportant matters; or ſcepticiſm, which gives a new and totally different direction to the underſtanding and the will, leaſt dangerous to our happy eſtabliſhment in church and ſtate? And whereas the human mind is a fruitful field, in which wholeſome herbs, or noxious weeds, will ſpring up and flouriſh,—*2dly*, Is it wiſer to pluck up at once the whole exiſting crop, before we have duly conſidered the nature and tendency of the ſeed to be ſubſtituted in its place; or to continue to cultivate the ſeeds of revealed religion, (which ſyſtem hath been held in high eſtimation by wiſe men in all ages of world,) and at the ſame time, gradually to check and eradicate pernicious errors and immoral practices? A candid examination of theſe queries may poſſibly furniſh ſome apology, why the miniſter and people of this diſtrict are not very haſty to exchange old prejudices for new and ſtrange doctrines, which eventually may be, and in a neighbouring nation have been ſubverſive of the principles of religion natural and revealed.

greatly injured the crop of the whole country. This was the caſe in the year 1778, on the 14th of Auguſt, when a gale of weſterly wind, of not more than four hours continuance, drove the fray of the ſea over the Orkney iſlands, which damaged the crop to ſuch a degree, that it was found neceſſary to import about 18,000 bolls of meal and bear, which, with large quantities of biſcut, potatoes, peaſe, barley and malt, coſt the conſumers no leſs a ſum than 15,000 l. Sterling, that is, nearly twice the groſs rent of the country. Crops 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, were poor indeed, but not ſo bad as that of 1778. To ſupply the deficiency of the ſaid four crops, nearly 20,000 bolls of victual were imported into Orkney. The crops for ſeveral years laſt paſt, have been ſo much better, that conſiderable quantities of victual have been exported.

The ferries in this diſtrict, and through all Orkney, except on the poſt road from Caithneſs to Kirkwall, are not under proper regulations. There are no ſtated ferry-men, the freights are accordingly impoſed at the pleaſure of the boatmen who croſs over with paſſengers, which renders the expence and trouble of travelling through theſe iſlands very great, and difficult to be aſcertained.

There are ale-houſes in almoſt all the iſlands, but no inns, except in Kirkwall and Stromneſs, the only towns in Orkney; which circumſtance makes it inconvenient for ſtrangers to paſs through this country; this defect, however, is well ſupplied by the moſt reſpectable people in each of the iſlands, who receive and accommodate travellers with great hoſpitality and kindneſs.

The inhabitants of Orkney are nearly the ſame in number now, (1794,) according to accounts lately given in by the ſeveral miniſters, to the ſynod of Orkney, as they were found to be by like accounts given in to Murdoch Mackenzie, maritime ſurveyor of theſe iſlands, about the year 1750; viz. from 23 to 24,000.

There are eighteen pariſh-miniſters in Orkney, (the pariſh kirks thirty two,) divided into three preſbyteries, in each of which there are ſix miniſters. Of thoſe who filled theſe offices twenty five years ago, when the author of this article was ſettled, only three incumbents now remain, one in each of the preſbyteries; viz. one in the pariſhes of Hoy and Guymſay, one in the pariſhs of Ronſay and Egliſhay; all the other pariſhes in Orkney, have been vacated by the death of their reſpective paſtors, ſome of them by the death of more than one incumbent.

This obſervation tends to ſhow, that the inſcription over the door of the miniſter firſt in order, in the burgh of Kirkwall, in Orkney, might very properly be put over the door of every miniſter's manſe in the county, to keep the poſſeſſors in mind of the rapidity of ſucceſſion, and ſhortneſs of the time which all and each of them can reaſonably expect to hold their offices. The inſcription is in a Monkiſh rhyme, as follows:

Omnia terrena, per vices ſunt aliena;
Nunc mea, tunc hujus; poſt mortem neſcio cujus.

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF GLENCROSS.

(PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, AND COUNTY OF MID-LOTHIAN)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM TORRENCE, *Miniſter.*

WITH *ADDITIONS* BY THE

Rev. Dr JOHN WALKER, *Miniſter of Colington,*

AND

PROFESSOR OF NATURAL HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

Situation and Extent.

THIS pariſh is ſituated about 7 miles Weſt from Edinburg: The roads leading to Biggar, Moffat, and Peebles, run through it. The extent of it is nearly about 3 miles from Eaſt to Weſt, and the ſame diſtance from South to North. It is bounded on the Eaſt and South by the pariſh of Laſswade, and on the Weſt and North by the pariſhes of Pennycuick and Colington. It had formerly been a part of the pariſhes of Laſſwade and Pennycuick, and was erected into a ſeparate pariſh in 1616.

Population.—There is reaſon to believe that the population of this pariſh has decreaſed conſiderably within theſe 40 years, on account of the union of farms. At preſent there are 385 ſouls, 73 families, 175 males, 245 unmarried.

List of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, for 8 years.

Years.	*Baptisms.*	*Marriages.*	*Burials.*
1785	6	4	10
86	10	4	5
87	7	3	10
88	9	3	4
89			
90	14	2	4
91	3	5	3
92	11	1	4

Agriculture.—The greateſt part of this pariſh is adapted to paſturage, being part of the Fentland hills; and it is ſuppoſed that the farmers would find their account in directing their attention more to this object, in other parts of the pariſh. The moſt profitable crops are oats and graſs, and the moſt ſubſtantial improvements are draining and manuring with lime.

There are in this pariſh about 60 ſcore of ſheep, about 150 cows and oxen, and about 100 horſes. The ſheep in this pariſh are generally of the common black faced kind. The farmers have hitherto found no other kind ſo hardy and ſo profitable. Smearing is univerſally practiſed by the farmers. They think it defends from the cold, the rot, and the ſcab. They give 3lb of butter to 1 pint of tar, and about 6 pints of tar and 18lb of butter to the ſcore. Lambs ſell from 4s. to 6s.

6s.; wool, from 5s. to 7s. per ſtone; ewes with lamb from 10s. to 12s.

The multure paid by the farmers is 1 peck to 6 firlots of ſhilling, and about half a peck of meal to every boll of oats. The great complaint on this article, is,—that the multure is meaſured, not weighed, and that the meaſures are large and uncertain.

Manufactures.—In this pariſh there is one diſtillery, one bleachfield, two corn-mills, one barley-mill, three ſmiths, two maſons, two wrights, two weavers, one taylor, two butchers, and one coallier.

Foſſils.—The part of the Pentland hills which is in this pariſh, like all the reſt of that range of mountains, conſiſts of different ſorts of whinſtone, and other lapideous ſtrata, which are commonly termed *primitive rocks*. The lower grounds in the pariſh, which form part of the valley of Mid Lothian, contain foſſils of a very different kind, and which are known by the name of *ſecundary ſtrata*. Theſe are *ſandſtone*, *limeſtone*, *coal*, and its concomitant foſſils, which are uſually called *coal metals*.

Through Scotland, in general, theſe ſecundary ſtrata occupy the lower parts of the country; but the mountainous tracts are entirely compoſed of ſtrata of the primitive kind. The ſecundary ſtrata ſtretch through the valley of Mid Lothian, for about 15 miles, from Muſſelburgh ſands, to the Caerlips on the confines of Tweeddale, where they are all cut off. In ſeveral places, they arrive at the ſkirts of the Pentland hills, but never aſcend them. They terminate gradually, as they approach the mountains, and ſeem, at their termination, to overleap, as it were, the primitive ſtrata of which the mountains conſiſt.

By

By the ſide of the river of Glencroſs, there is a vein ſeveral feet wide, entirely filled with that mineral ſubſtance called *heavy ſpar*. It is a foſſil that abounds in many of the richeſt metallic veins, both in Scotland, and in foreign countries; and affords indeed a probable indication of metals, eſpecially of lead. This vein appears to have been worked a little way in former times, but had ſoon been given up. It is not unlikely, that on ſome future occaſion, it may be thought worthy of further examination. Of all foſſils, this ſubſtance approaches neareſt to the the metals in ſpecific gravity. It has even been preſumed to be of a metallic nature. No metal, however, has yet been extracted from it, nor has it ever been applied to any uſe more profitable, than as a flux, to facilitate the fuſion of the ores of metals.

Trees.—There is a ſilver fir at Woodhouſelee, which is the oldeſt tree of its ſpecies in Mid Lothian, and has always been admired for its ſize and beauty. It was planted in a dry ſoil, in a garden, about the firſt year of the preſent century. In March 1759, at 4 feet above the ground, it meaſured 7 feet $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in circumference. In March 1793, at the ſame height, it meaſured 11 feet $1\frac{4}{5}$ inches. During theſe 33 years, it therefore increaſed in circumference 45 inches. Its greateſt growth was in the year 1760, when it increaſed preciſely 2 inches. During all the other years, its increaſe in circumference was from one inch, to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch annually. This fine tree, however, is now upon the decay. It is aſcertained, from other inſtances, that the age of the ſilver fir, is limited, in this country, to within a century. It is in its greateſt perfection, when about 80 years old; and if placed in a proper ſituation, it is capable, during all that period, of increaſing upon an average, above a cubic foot of wood annually. From ſome full grown trees of this kind, lately felled

led in the South of Scotland, it appeared, that the timber is more valuable and uſeful than has generally been ſuppoſed.

About the year 1700, there had alſo been planted at Woodhouſelee, and at Greenlaw in this pariſh, a conſiderable number of laburnums. Some of them were cut in the year 1762, and afforded a plank from 10 to 14 inches in breadth, of very beautiful timber. At both places, theſe trees grew in a high part of the country, in a meagre ſoil, and in an expoſed ſituation. When they came to be worked into furniture, a remarkable difference appeared, in the quality of their wood, compared to that of laburnums of the ſame age, which grew at Panmure in Forfarſhire, in a rich ſoil, and in a low and ſheltered ſituation: carved work, in the Panmure laburnum, was executed by the cabinet maker with the ordinary tools; but in the Woodhouſelee and Greenlaw laburnum, it required the aſſiſtance of ſteel files, from the greater cloſeneſs and hardneſs of the wood.

Animals.—The red ſquirrel (*ſciurus vulgaris rufus* of Linnæus,) has become extremely common of late years. In this neighbourhood, the woods abound with them, and they are pretty numerous at Woodhouſelee. Though a beautiful animal, they are deſtructive of the ſmall birds, by devouring their eggs, and are extremely injurious to young planting, by croping and barking the tender ſhoots. The larch tree ſuffers particularly from this animal.

In the year 1749, when the coal was worked at Newhall, in the neighbouring pariſh of Pennycuick, it was remarked that the coalliers houſes, and other cottages, in which nothing was burnt but coal, abounded with bugs. In the neighbourhood of that coal, there was plenty of peat moſs, and there, as it happens in other parts of Scotland, many of the cottagers choſe rather to uſe peat than coal for their fuel.

In

In thoſe houſes in which peat only was burnt, the bug never appeared, though they were immediately adjacent to houſes where coal was burnt, and in which the inſect prevailed.

In the year 1759, when the coal was worked on Glencroſs muir, and in Goukly moſs, in this pariſh, the ſame thing was obſerved. The houſes of the lower people, who only uſed coal, were infeſted with bugs; while thoſe in which peat and turf ſerved as the only fuel, were entirely free.

The burning of peat in Edinburgh, came to be a ſort of receipt againſt bugs, though it does not appear to have been of much avail. If peat ſmoak is at all a remedy againſt them, it appears only to be ſo, where no other fuel is uſed but peat; and where the ſmoak is at liberty, as is uſually the caſe where peat is burnt, to pervade the whole houſe.

It is indeed remarkable, that the bug prevails only in thoſe towns and parts of Scotland, where coal is burnt; and that it is unknown in the towns and diſtricts, where peat, turf, or wood, are the only fuel. Some towns and villages of this kind, though they have always had much communication with Edinburgh and Glaſgow, by means of goods, furniture, baggage, and apparel, ſtill remain uninfeſted with bugs. This would inſinuate, that they poſſeſs ſome antidote againſt theſe vermin. That this antidote is the ſmoak of the peat fuel, is not improbable; but that it really is ſo, has not been ſufficiently aſcertained.

House-of-Muir Market.—There is a market for ſheep at Houſe-of-Muir, at two ſeaſons of the year, in the end of March and beginning of April; and there is a market for ewes with lamb. They come from Galloway and the Southern counties, and are bought up by the Mid-Lothian and Eaſt- Lothian farmers. In the end of October, there is a market for fat ſheep from the ſame counties, which are bought

bought by the Edinburgh and Dalkeith butchers, during the whole ſummer; lambs are to be bought about the beginning of the week. The cuſtom drawn from this market is paid to the family of Glencroſs, and the town of Edinburgh.

Antiquities.—There are ſome veſtiges of camps at Caſtle-law, from which the place has probably taken its name. At Rullion green, was fought the battle of Pentland-hill, in November 28th 1666. A ſtone is erected in memory of this battle, with a rude inſcription. Old Woodhouſelee was formerly the property and reſidence of Hamilton of Bothwell-haugh, and it was from this houſe that the Regent Murray turned out the Lady of Hamilton to the inclemency of the ſeaſon; the reſentment of which was the cauſe of the Regent's death. About a hundred and thirty years ago, the tower of Fulford, which was likewiſe a place of great antiquity, was repaired from the ſtones of this houſe, and took the name of Woodhouſelee. It is the property of Alexander Fraſer Tytler, Eſq; Judge-Advocate of North Britain.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—There are ſix heritors in this pariſh. Mr Fraſer Tytler is patron. The ſtipend is 35l. 8s. 1d. in money, ten bolls two firlots and two pecks of barley, ſeven bolls two firlots and two pecks of meal, and ten bolls of oats. The manſe, which was built within theſe 30 years, was, this year, 1793, repaired in a very complete manner, and is, at preſent, a very commodious and comfortable dwelling. The glebe, with the garden, which is a good one, conſiſts of nearly five acres of ground, together with the privilege of grazing a cow with one farmer, and ten ſheep or a cow with another. The poor are ſupported from the collections at the church door, from the dues from marriages, and mort-cloth, and from the intereſt of 20l. at 4 per cent. The

number of poor in this pariſh is ſmall. Two only, have, for ſome time paſt, been upon the roll.

Miſcellaneous.—The advantages peculiar to this pariſh, are its vicinity to Edinburgh, the goodneſs of the roads, and the neighbourhood of good coal. There are no diſeaſes peculiar to this pariſh. The people, in general, are very healthy. There are, however, no inſtances of remarkable longevity.

It is not unworthy of particular remark, that the ſcene of that beautiful paſtoral, *The Gentle Shepherd*, is generally ſuppoſed to have been laid in this pariſh. There is certainly a very ſtrict coincidence between the actual ſcenery of this part of the country, and the local circumſtances mentioned in the poem. The general deſcription of the ſcene, as given at the beginning of the paſtoral, is " A ſhepherd's village and fields, " ſome few miles from Edinburgh." The Weſt-Port, mentioned in the firſt ſcene as the road from the village to market, fixes the bearing of the country to the vicinity of the Pentland hills. The firſt ſcene is

" *Beneath the ſouth-ſide of a craigy bield,*
" *Where cryſtal ſprings the haleſome waters yield :*"

As the ſecond is,

" *A flowry howm, between twa verdant braes,*
" *A trotting burnie wimpling thro' the ground,*"

No deſcription could more exactly characteriſe the ſcenery in the neighbourhood of Woodhouſelee, and Boghall burns. A romantic fall at the head of Glencroſs water is termed, at this day, " *Habby's-how.*" The ancient tower of Fulford, or Woodhouſelee, repaired immediately after the civil wars, and formerly the manſion houſe of a knight *, may well countenance

* ir William Purves his Majeſty's Sollicitor.

ance the ſuppoſition of Ramſay's having here fixed the imaginary reſidence of his Sir William Worthy. After all, however, this appropriation muſt be allowed to be entirely conjectural, and to reſt more upon fancy, pleaſing itſelf in clothing its own pictures in the garb of reality, than upon any baſis of evidence. This at leaſt may certainly be affirmed, that if the poet intended at all to appropriate the ſcenery of his paſtoral, farther than to the general aſpect of the country in the neighbourhood of the Pentland hills, there are no actual ſcenes which ſo perfectly correſpond to his deſcriptions, as thoſe in the neighbourhood of Woodhouſelee.

Eminent Men.—There were two gentlemen, formerly of this pariſh, whoſe names well deſerve to be recorded, in a parochial account of this kind.

WILLIAM TYTLER, Eſq; of Woodhouſelee, writer to his Majeſty's Signet, and vice-preſident of the ſociety of Scottiſh Antiquaries. His *Enquiry into the Evidence againſt Mary Queen of Scots*, is allowed to be one of the moſt maſterly pieces of hiſtorical criticiſm: and has been the means of producing a very general alteration, in the opinion of the world, concerning the conduct and character of that unfortunate Princeſs. Beſides hiſtorical reſearches, he was alſo remarkable for his extenſive learning and excellent taſte, in other branches of the belles lettres. He reſcued from oblivion that valuable fragment of antiquity, *the King's Quair*, a poem written by James I. of Scotland, during his captivity in England. This remarkable poem, written near 400 years ago, is mentioned by ſome old writers, but was ſuppoſed to be loſt. Mr Tytler was ſo fortunate as to diſcover it among the Seldenian M. S. S. in the Bodleian library, and printed it for the firſt time, in the year 1783, accompanied with a very learned and judicious commentary. There are two fine Scots poems, formerly of uncertain ori-

gin, *The Eagle and Robin Red-breaſt* and *The Viſion*, which, from careful enquiry, he reſtored to their genuine author, Allan Ramſay. From perſonal knowledge, he alſo aſcribed to that poet, the whole merit of the *Gentle Shepherd*, of which, by detraction or by miſtake, he had been in part deprived.

Mr Tytler was no leſs conſpicuous for his ſcience and taſte in muſic His diſſertation on the Scottiſh muſic, is the work of a maſter in that fine art. He was one of the firſt and moſt zealous promoters of the gentlemen's concert at Edinburgh: A public entertainment, which, for liberality and elegance, is not perhaps excelled in any other great city. In his younger years, he uſed himſelf to be a performer in that aſſembly, on his favourite inſtrument, the German flute. The crouded funeral concert after his death, which was the higheſt exertion of the art in this country, ſhowed the ſincere and deep regret of the public, for the loſs of this excellent man.

In Mr Tytler, the man of letters, and the man of buſineſs, were happily united.—A union, which has generally produced ſome of the greateſt and beſt characters in life. To ſuperior abilities in the profeſſion of the law, he added the moſt unſpotted integrity. Keen he was, and reſentful, againſt every thing that was baſe or diſhonourable: But an ardent friend to every thing that was good, and eſpecially to unbefriended merit. His piety, and his virtues in every relation of life, were well known to his numerous private friends, who will ever have them in remembrance.

James Philp, Eſq; of Greenlaw, in this pariſh, was educated as a lawyer under Heineccius, Vitriarius, and other eminent civilians, in Germany and Holland. Soon after his return from abroad, he was appointed judge of the High Court of Admiralty. His profound knowledge in maritime law, enabled him to execute this office, for many years, with much

much advantage to his country, and with much honour to himſelf. He was a man noted and beloved, for the mildneſs and urbanity of his mind and manners; but he was a man alſo of deep diſcernment, and of inflexible rectitude.

In the year 1754, the preſent Admiral Sir Hugh Palliſer was commander of the Sea Horſe man of war, lying in the road of Leith. A man, under indentures as an apprentice, had been enliſted as a ſailor, on board this ſhip. On petition from his maſter, and on production of the indenture, Judge Philp granted a warrant to bring the man aſhore to be examined. A macer of court went aboard to apprehend him; but was told by Captain Palliſer, that he conſidered himſelf as ſubject only to the law of England; and that he would not ſuffer the man to go aſhore. Upon this, the macer, with his blazon on his breaſt, broke his wand of peace, and reported this illegal act of deforcement to the Admiralty court. The judge then granted warrant to apprehend Captain Palliſer himſelf, to bring him from aboard his ſhip; and to commit him to priſon, which was accordingly done. Next day, he was brought into court; and, on refuſing to ſubmit to its jurisdiction, becauſe he held his commiſſion from the Board of Admiralty, he was again remanded to priſon, there to remain, till liberated in courſe of law.

When the caſe was reported by the Earl of Findlater, then Lord High Admiral of Scotland, to chancellor Hardwicke, that great ornament of the law, and of human nature, the chancellor ſaid, " he was a bold judge who had done this; but he had done what was right." This juſt and high toned deciſion, from a man ſo gentle and amiable as Mr Philp, was followed with the univerſal approbation and gratitude of his country. It reſembled in this, the behaviour of the excellent

lent Lord Chief Juſtice Holt, who, in his court of King's bench, ordered the ſpeaker of the Houſe of Commons, with a committee at his back, to take himſelf away, otherwiſe he would commit him to Newgate, though he ſhould have the whole Houſe of Commons in his belly. It is the peculiar glory of this nation, that the laws are, as they ought always to be, predominant over every other power, ſuperior to the executive; and to any individual branch of the Legiſlature.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF ALFORD,

(PRESBYTERY OF ALFORD, COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS BIRNIE, *Minister.*

Name and Situation.

No accounts, but ſuch as are merely conjecture, can be given of the origin of the name of this pariſh, though it bears the ſame with the preſbytery, and a conſiderable tract of circumjacent country. Some ſay, that the name has ariſen from the circumſtance of the river Don, (which is the northern boundary of the pariſh, and which runs through the whole length of the county called Alford,) being almoſt every where, in this part of its courſe, fordable, when in its ordinary ſize. Others maintain, that the church was built upon a deſerted part of the bed of the Lochel, a ſmall river which paſſes very near it, and where there had been anciently a ford; and, from

from that circumſtance, *auld fuirde* came to be the name of the church and pariſh; both theſe derivations ſeem to be of modern date, and entirely dependent upon the preſent manner of ſpelling; for the names of almoſt all other places in this county are of Gaelic original; and the name of the pariſh, in records two hundred years old, is written Awfurde, an orthography which correſponds with the preſent pronounciation.

The county of Alford is ſituated from 20 to 31 miles Weſt from Aberdeen; and beſides the pariſh of that name, which is the largeſt, and the ſubject of this account, comprehends four other pariſhes, Forbes, Keig, Gillyneſsle, and Tough. It is ſurrounded on every ſide by hills and mountains, and there is no entrance to it, but by aſcending conſiderable heights to gain the hollow paſſes between them. On the South, it is bounded by Coueny §; on the Eaſt by Menoway or Cainwilliam; on the North Eaſt, and North, by Bennachee *, and the hills of Careen; and on the Weſt by Calievar. Theſe boundaries contain a country which, reckoning from the brows of the oppoſite mountains, is about 11 miles in length, and from 4 to 6 in breadth. A conſiderable portion of this ſpace is a level country, eſpecially in the lower parts; but the flatneſs is every where varied by gentle ſwells, and eminences, which in the upper parts riſe to greater height. The climate of this country can neither be ſaid to be very wet or very dry. Its diſtance from the ocean occaſions more intenſe froſts, and longer lying ſnows; but, on the other hand, that, and the ſurrounding mountains, protect and cover this country from the North Eaſt fogs and winds, which are ſo unfavourable to vegetation in leſs ſheltered ſituations, and places which are upon the coaſt. Beſides ſeveral inferior

§ Both anciently royal forreſts.

inferior ſtreams, Alford is watered by the Don, a river of ſome ſize, which, guſhing through a narrow gullet, between the mountains on the Weſt, winds its courſe in a direction from Weſt to Eaſt, through the whole length of the country, and, after adorning ſeveral gentlemen's ſeats on its banks, flows away through a narrow valley, encompaſſed on the North, by Bennachie, which riſes up into high and magnificent Alpine tops.

The pariſh of Alford is in length, from South-Weſt to North-Eaſt, from 7 to 8 Engliſh miles; and from 3 to between 4 and 5 in breadth. It contains nearly 8000 Scotch acres; of which there may be 3600 arable, 3700 of hill, muir, moſs, and paſture grounds, and about 700 of woods. Theſe laſt conſiſt of planted Scotch firs, intermixed with larixes, beeches, oaks, aſhes, birks, and other trees of different ages, beſides a good deal of grown timber about gentlemen's ſeats, and the tenant's yards.

Soil.—The ſoil on the banks of the Don, is generally a good light loam, very fit for corn crops, but better adapted for graſs, becauſe of the mildews ariſing from the river, which are hurtful to grain, eſpecially to barley. In the Eaſtern parts of the pariſh, the ſoil is in ſome places a good deep loam, in others, a ſtrong, but workable clay, and ſometimes a mixture of both. In this quarter, and the adjoining pariſh of Tough, there was formerly a large marſh, now called the Strath of Tough, or Kincraigie, which was partially drained in the end of the laſt Century, when the proprietors are ſaid to have gained immenſely, by the rich crops which this new ſoil produced. That part of it which lies within this pariſh, is moſſy; and, though there are ſome ſtrong clay lands in it, they have, in general, a conſiderable mixture of moſs. All theſe ſoils of lands, which, in this country, are called laighs, or laigh lands, yield precarious corn crops, as their wetneſs

and lowneſs ſubjects them, in late ſeaſons, to froſt; but they would make excellent meadows, if they were properly drained.

All the moſſes ly in this quarter of the pariſh, and they are very much wore out. The largeſt, called, for its extent, the meikle moſs, was accidentally fired, about 1730, in the ſummer ſeaſon, and being unluckily very dry at the time, was nearly conſumed. The remains of it now afford no better fuel than turfs, which are very clayey, and not only give, but retain a ſtrong heat. The ſoils in the centre and weſtern parts of the pariſh, are dry and light, ſometimes of a deep, ſometimes of a ſhallow ſtaple, well adapted for lime, and the turnip huſbandry, and no leſs fit, with proper cultivation and manure, for raiſing heavy crops of corn and graſs. The moſt weſterly parts are hill grounds, and, with proper management, would make pretty good ſheep walks.

Farms.—The ſize of farms it is difficult to average, as they differ prodigiouſly from one another, not only in the whole extent, but alſo in the quantity of the different ſoils of land which make up a farm in that country; and they are in general ſtill under the old diviſions, with very irregular marches, as when antiquated notions of convenience, and no idea of incloſing, or regular fields, were in view. The rents run from 60l. and 70l. to 7l. or 8l. for thoſe who are accounted farmers. Under that rent, the poſſeſſors of land are cropers, who frequently, however, have cattle ſufficient to work a plough. A conſiderable part of the rent is paid in victual, by the farmers, and ſometimes even by the cropers; and they are in general deſirous enough to convert the victual into money, though they will rarely give it's value. Multures have generally been changed into paid rents, and the tenants only pay knaveſhips to the miller, beſides the uſual mill ſervices. They are bound likewiſe to deliver poultry, &c. for

for which they are paid at an old converſion, which is from $3\frac{4}{12}$d. to 6d. for a hen, and ſo in proportion. On ſome eſtates, the tenants are ſtill bound to perform ſervices, ſuch as ploughing, caſting and carrying peats, carriages, &c.; but as they are rarely, or very few of them, at leaſt, exacted, the tenants are not deſirous to convert them into money; and, in general, they would give nothing in lieu of them. On one eſtate in the pariſh, the barony of Alford, the cotters and ſub-tenants pay for their houſes and firing, to the landlord only, a reek hen, and one day's ſhearing in harveſt. Leaſes were formerly granted for long terms, and for lives; but they do not ſeem to have given any ſpur to the induſtry of the people: When a leaſe dropped laſt Whitſunday, which had been granted in 1743, the ſon of the original tenant refuſed to give the ſame rent for the poſſeſſion, which had been ſo long paid. Now, when improvements are commencing, they might be perhaps more beneficial; but, at preſent, no leaſes longer than 19 years, are granted, and frequently they do not exceed 11 or 13.

Agriculture.—In this quarter of the country, all the old-faſhioned prejudices of husbandry are ſtill looked upon as ſure and infallible rules of good management; for no differences in extent of poſſeſſion, or in rent, make any difference in the plans or exertions of the farmer; and all poſſeſſors of land, of whatever deſcription, purſue the ſame methods, and almoſt entirely in the ſame manner.

As agriculture is, perhaps, in this country, in as low a ſtate as in any other part of Scotland, that has the advantage of a good ſoil, and not an unfavourable climate, it may not be improper to detail the mode of management practiſed here, which, it is believed, has at one time or other prevailed, even in thoſe parts of the kingdom, which, by the pro-

greſs of improvement, are now ſo well cultivated and ſo productive. Such a detail, while it preſents the real ſtate of this country to the reader, will, at the ſame time, hold forth a picture of the former ſtate of Scotland; and, by compariſon with what it preſently is, ſhew that agriculture has ariſen, from the midſt of prejudices, ſupported by popular opinion, and ſanctioned by long habit, to be an art practiſed upon reaſonable principles, founded upon facts and experiments; and that the time may come, when the ſtrength, and wealth, and power of the natio , will, by the reſources of the ſoil, and attention to the intereſts of agriculture, be raiſed to the higheſt pitch of which they are capable.

Every farm in this county, is compoſed of land of different qualities, and managed in different manners, which are diſtinguiſhed by the names of,—1. Infield, 2. Outfield, 3. Laigh-lands, 4. Paſture-grounds. Of theſe different ſpecies of land, there are no fixed proportions for a farm. The ſmaller poſſeſſions and crops generally conſiſt altogether of in-field; but all the more conſiderable farms muſt be made up of the 1ſt and 2d ſorts; and there are many who have no land of the 3d or 4th deſcription; and there are ſome which are compoſed of all the 4 different kinds.

The in-field or in-town lands, are conſtantly in white crop, unleſs when the farm has very little or very bad paſture, and then, perhaps, a ridge or two is left untilled, to throw up the weeds which ages have nouriſhed in it, to maintain the farmers cattle. One third of it is regularly manured yearly, with all the dung of one year's gathering; and thus, in three years, all the in-field on a farm has been once dunged. The in-field land is generally all ſtirred immediately after harveſt, and the dunged third part is again ploughed in ſpring, and ſown with bear about the beginning of May, and this crop is ſucceeded by two crops of oats, ſown upon the winter

winter furrow, as ſoon as the ſeaſon will permit; when the land comes again in courſe to be manured, and undergoes the ſame rotation. The in-field land is generally an excellent ſoil, full of manure, but ſtocked with deſtructive weeds, of which wild oats and knot-graſs are among the worſt. Without the intervention of graſs and green crops, to deſtroy the weeds and recruit the ſoil, the produce of the corn crops cannot be ſuppoſed to be in any proportion to the goodneſs of the land. An average, in tolerable ſeaſons, will not exceed from 4 to 5 bolls *per* acre.

The outfield lands are managed in different ways, either by folding or croping, without manure, or by water falling. This laſt method can be practiſed only in particular ſituations, having the command of water, and where the ground hangs conſiderably *, to admit of ſpreading the water eaſily over it; and it is intended to fertilize the ſoil, for a ſucceſſion of three or four crops of oats. Though no great care or attention is beſtowed, in ſpreading the water equally, the firſt and ſecond crops are ſaid frequently to equal thoſe produced on the ſame lands by liming; but the two laſt are, as it may be ſuppoſed, *equally inferior*. After theſe corns crops, the land is left lee 2 or 3 or 4 years, to get a ſward for another watering, and ſucceſſion of grain crops. As this mode of cultivation is limited to particular ſpots, out-field lands are more generally managed, by folding and croping, without any manure; and their extent, and the ſtock of cattle which the farmer poſſeſſes on the paſture on his farm, will enable him to keep all the circumſtances, which lead him to follow either of theſe methods. Where the out-field is extenſive, and does not produce better than ordinary graſs, it is impoſſible in general

* Land is watered in this county for croping, and meadow grounds are never watered, as in England, for paſture.

general to fold upon the whole, unleſs the paſture grounds are of a proportionable extent; and therefore one part is folded upon, and the other is not; and where the out-field is ſmall, it cannot be divided into folds, of which *eleven* † is accounted by the farmers of this country, the moſt proper number for their rotation. One of theſe folds is every ſummer ſurrounded with a ſeal (turf) dyke, and the cattle are incloſed in it during the night, till after harveſt, when the dyke is knocked down; the land is ploughed, and left in that ſtate all winter. In ſpring, oats are ſown; and as ſoon as the crop is off the ground, it is again ploughed for a ſecond, and ſo on till it has borne *five* ‡ ſucceſſive crops of oats; and then it is left five years lee, to throw up whatever poor graſs ſuch worn out ſoil will produce. The firſt two years the graſs is as bad as poſſible; and though, during the other three it thickens, yet even at the beſt, it gives but a ſcanty bite to the cattle. The ſixth year it is again folded upon and dunged; and thus, in eleven years, where the number of folds is eleven, a fold is 5 years in corn crop, 5 lee, and one in preparing for another ſimilar ſucceſſion. The out-fields, which are not dunged

† This number is thought the moſt proper, where 5 ſucceſſive crops are taken; but, upon ſome farms, the out-fields are in diviſions of 9 and 10 folds.

‡ It is ſaid that *three* crops only of oats, upon toathed or dunged out-field, were allowed by the ancient cuſtomary law of Scotland; and that action for damages lay at the inſtance of the landlord, or of the incoming againſt the outgoing tenant, if he injured the poſſeſſion by a more ſevere round of crops. Some documents of the uſe of this action, are ſaid to be ſtill extant, in the records of the Sheriff Court of Perth. It is certain, that where out fields were formerly managed by folding, and where they ſtill are ſo, the moſt general practice is to take three crops only. In ſome places, five crops were probably allowed of old by the landholders; and the record of a court of the barony of Alford, 11th May 1794, affords very good evidence that this was the caſe in this county.

dunged by folding, (or as it is here called, toathed,) are cropped with oats, upon the ſame plan as thoſe that are, with the difference of being one or two years leſs in tillage, and one or two more lee. Under this diviſion of the lands on a farm in this county, faughs or faughlands, (a corrupt pronounciation of fallow) are included. They are ploughed once in ſummer, and left in that ſtate till ſpring, when they are ſown with very inferior oats, of which they bear three or four ſucceſſive crops; and are then left to the operations of nature for ſeveral years, to recruit them for another period of tillage. The ſoil of out-field land, in general, is inferior to that of in-field, only by the difference in cultivation, and being more ſtony. The bad uſage of the untoathed out-fields and faughs, will eaſily account for their want of fertility, in raiſing grain crops; but more eſpecially in producing graſs, the badneſs and poorneſs of which it is not eaſy to deſcribe. The oats ſown upon out-field lands, are in quality according to the goodneſs of the ſoil, and the ſtate in which it is. In the beſt dunged folds, the white oats, and in the inferior lands, and on faughs, grey oats, called here hairy and barley corn, are generally ſown. As, after folding, the land is only once ploughed, and frequently with a deep fur, the dung is buried the firſt year, and works its effects on the ſecond and third crops; and, therefore, the firſt three crops are nearly alike, and will rarely run beyond four bolls per acre, on an average; and for the two laſt years, they dwindle down to betwixt two and three, and often leſs. The produce of the untoathed out-fields, is much inferior in quantity, as well as quality; and indeed the return from faughs in grain, will ſeldom defray the expences of labour and ſeed; and the farmers are tempted to plough them, though it is to their own loſs, merely for the ſake of the ſmall quantity of ſtraw which they

they yield; and becauſe, under their bad management, ſuch lands will give no graſs.

Laighlands are in general a ſtrong deep heavy ſoil, and in this country are either alternately in oat crop, and lee, or 2 years in oats, and one or two in lee. In dry early ſeaſons, they give good crops of good grain, and always a great quantity of ſtraw; but in wet and late harveſts the grain is never fit for ſeed, and ſometimes not good enough for meal, as theſe lands, owing to their lateneſs and wetneſs, (for they are not ſufficiently drained in this country,) are liable to be froſted before the corn is perfectly ripe. They however through up abundance of good natural graſs.

The paſture lands conſiſt either of benty muir, marſhy grounds, which cannot be ploughed, the banks of rivers and rivulets, or hill grounds. Theſe lands have never received any manure to meliorate them, but that which drops from the cattle during the day; but they have for centuries been waſted by the practice of cutting up the ſward into turf, for the different purpoſes of mixing it with the ſtable and byre dung, (muck-fail* ;) of building the walls of houſes, when it is called

* The practice of cutting up ſward for manure or muck fail, was prohibited by an Act of Parliament, made for the county of Aberdeen, as long ago as 1685, under a penalty of 100l. Scots bolls, *toties quoties*, to the maſters of the ground; and in caſe of their neglect to execute the Act, the ſheriffs and juſtices were enjoined to put it in execution. There are ſtill many places in this county where this law ſhould be enforced. This Act ſhows that the Legiſlature was, even in thoſe times, not ignorant of the bad conſequences of continual grain crops, and the want of proper provender for cattle in winter, and that they knew green crops to be the proper remedy; for it contains an enactment, whereby a certain proportion of the in field of every farm (valuable according to its Highland or Lowland ſituation) was ordered to be ſown with peaſe yearly, and regulations for puniſhing perſons who ſhould ſteal the pulſe. Peaſe was the only green crop known in thoſe times.

led fail; of roofing houſes, when the ſward is pared thin, and for fuel, which they call troves. The hill grounds have been likewiſe much much injured by burning the heath in improper ſeaſons and places; and no pains are taken, even where the ſituation will admit of it, to extirpate heath by watering. A conſiderable part of the paſture lands in this pariſh, might be made good arable ſoil, by draining, and the other means of improvement. The hill grounds might, by good management, be greatly bettered; and there are ſeveral tracts of ground which fall under the diviſion of paſture lands in this diſtrict, that are only fit for plantations.

In this county, and indeed pretty generally over this country, farmers almoſt never change their ſeed, uſing always the produce of their own farms; but they are at ſome pains to have it as good and ſound as the beſt of their corn with repeated winnowings will give. The beſt oats in this country are of an excellent quality; for in tolerable ſeaſons, the boll † will yield 8 or 9 ſtones, and even more of meal, which is ground much ſmaller and better ſifted than in the South of Scotland. The gray oats, or barley corn, neither give ſo much in quantity, nor of ſuch quality; and they are ſometimes ſo bad, as to require two bolls to produce eight ſtones of meal. In ſpring 1783, when there was great reaſon to apprehend that the crop of 1782 was too ſcanty and faulty to afford a ſufficiency of good ſeed, a cargo of fine Dutch oats was ſent to this country by the late Mr Farquharſon of Haughton, for his own tenants and the neighbours, and they contributed to ſecure the next crop. Theſe oats were, however, ſaid to degenerate by bad cultivation, and they were liable to ſhake before they were perfectly ripe; and for theſe reaſons they are not now ſown. The Montgomery or Magbiehill oats have

† Our boll is 9.767 per cent. better than the Linlithgow or ſtandard meaſure.

been lately introduced by Mr Leith of Whitehaugh, upon his own very extenſive farm, in the neighbouring pariſh of Tillyneſsle; they poſſeſs the advantage of ripening three weeks before the common oat, and therefore the extenſion of their uſe will be a great improvement.

The bear grown in this country by common farmers, is all of the Scotch kind; and though the ſeed is procured in the ſame way as that of oats, weighs, in general, 18 ſtones per boll †, and will, in particular ſituations and ſeaſons, even come to 20 and 21 ſtones. A conſiderable quantity of meal and bear, probably from 800 to 900 bolls, is annually ſent from this pariſh to Aberdeen, our only or chief market for grain. Bear and oatmeal have given good prices of late years, though the ſmallneſs of our meal is a great diſadvantage to it in the Weſt country market, to which it was uſually ſent ſome years ago. Oats are never carried to market by our farmers, though there is a demand for them; a circumſtance which muſt be attributed more to habit than the effects of thirlage. Potatoes are not much uſed here, though every perſon who rents land plants a ſmall quantity. The common people are not very fond of them, and they think them unwholeſome; nor will farm ſervants make a meal of them, or even eat them without milk or butter, ſo readily as in other parts of Scotland. To peaſe-meal or bear-meal they have rather a diſlike; and in general, garden vegetables of all ſorts are not ſo much cultivated or uſed as in other parts of the kingdom. Very little flax has been hitherto raiſed in this country; and as we have excellent ſoil for it, and the country people are under the neceſſity of buying all the linen, when they might get it much cheaper by manufacturing it at home, this want of flax muſt be attributed to the difficulty in dreſſing the lent; but

† One barley boll is 9.767 per cent above the ſtandard.

but as that obſtacle is now removed by the erection of a lint mill in the neighbourhood by Mr Leith of Whitehaugh, the culture of this plant is becoming much more general and extenſive.

Field turnips and ſown graſſes, with ordinary attention, have anſwered remarkably well in this country; and as the farmers are convinced, by ſmall trials, of the benefits which attend that mode of huſbandry, they are more deſirous than formerly of improving in that way, though it is ſtill no eaſy taſk to perſuade them to abandon their old habits and prejudices.

The number of black cattle in this pariſh (in December 1793, when the year's ſale is over) is 953. Of theſe 346 are oxen for the plough, of which there are 65 in the pariſh, almoſt all of the old Scotch conſtruction. Every farmer is ambitious of having many pairs of oxen in his plough; ſome have 6, many have 5, and few common farmers, with any extent of poſſeſſion, have leſs than 4 pairs. Smaller tenants yoke oxen, horſes, and even bulls, cows, and young cattle, promiſcuouſly, to make up what they deem a ſufficient ſtrength. No difference in the nature of the ſoil is attended to in proportioning the ſtrength and number of the cattle; for a farmer, who yokes 10 or 12 oxen, employs them all, whether he plow his in-field land, or the moſt rugged ſtony out-field. Neither does this make any great difference in the quantity of land ploughed at a yoking, which is from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of an acre *, and which correſponds with the poor feeding of the cattle. Oxen, which ſold 40 years ago at 2l. or 3l. ſell now from 5l. to 7l. and thoſe of the beſt kind and ſize among common farmers, will even riſe to 8l. and 9l. Every farmer ſells one or two pairs of oxen yearly, and replaces them by others of his own rearing.

* The country people compute land by the quantity ſown with a boll of ſeed; which may be very litrle more, if any thing, than a Scots acre.

Forty years ago, 1l. 5s. or 1l. 10s. was the price of a cow that will now bring from 3l. to 5l; but as they are poorly fed, they are of a ſmall ſize, and will not give above 4 or 5 Scotch pints of milk per day, even in the beſt of the graſs. A farmer's dairy, therefore, is barely ſufficient for family conſumption, and as the milk is uſed ſweet, little butter or cheeſe is made, and that little is rarely ſent to market, but laid up for winter uſe, when milk cannot be had. The cows calve in the beginning of March or end of April, which is an additional reaſon for their giving little milk; but, on the other hand, early calving is thought, by the country people, to be advantageous to the calf, by giving it more time to acquire ſtrength, before the approach of winter. For the ſame reaſon, calves are univerſally permitted to go at large through the fields, during ſummer, and pick up the graſs at the roots of the corn. This practice is occaſioned by the want of proper food and incloſures; as the calves would be much injured by feeding or being confined with the large cattle in the folds, or in houſes, during the ſummer ſeaſon; and it is attended with much damage to the corns by their lying upon, and treading it down; and the calves get a reſtleſs habit, ſo that ever after it is impoſſible to confine them but by the ſtrongeſt and moſt impenetrable fences. In winter, the calves and all other cattle, are houſed, during the night, and fed with ſtraw, which, when the land is overrun with weeds, is not a great deal inferior to coarſe hay. After the firſt winter, they accompany the other cattle, till they are cows or oxen; for it is not uſual to ſell very young cattle in this country. In the ſpring ſeaſon, all cattle in this country are in very low condition, the ſtraw being by that time not only ſcarce, but dried, ſapleſs, and leſs nouriſhing: and by want of ſhelter, and on account of the poor ſtate of the land laid out for graſs, it is very late in riſing.

The

The number of horſes in this pariſh is 172. They are well bodied and clean limbed, but they want a ſufficiency of bone *; and, as they ſeldom riſe above 13, or 13½ hands high, they are under ſized for draught. Their other characteriſtics are, a large ill-ſhaped head, with a thick neck and ſtiff mane; they are hardy, and eaſily fed, and, upon the whole, ſerviceable horſes. In this country, horſes are not generally employed in ploughing, but they draw the harrows, which here are only uſed to cover the ſeed, and are by much too light and unfit for any of the other purpoſes of agriculture, to which proper harrows are applied. They perform all the cart work, which principally conſiſts in journeys to mill and market; in carrying home the corns in harveſt, and preparing and carting out dung. Their food is the ſame as that of horned cattle, with the addition of the light corn; and this, with a little more attention to their cleanlineſs and bedding, (though they are not rubbed down or curry-combed) keeps them more in fleſh, and in better condition, than other cattle. By the riſe of price, ‡ which, 40 years ago, was from 2l. to 3l. for a horſe, that now coſts from 9l. to 12l., the breeding of horſes has turned a profitable uſe of land; and farmers endeavour, at leaſt to ſupply themſelves, by keeping mares. The number of carts in this pariſh, has increaſed greatly within theſe 20 years, and is now 79.

Creels

* Some ill-judged attempts have probably been made, long ago, to raiſe the ſize of the native horſes of the country, by croſſing them with tall well bred horſes, from other parts of the kingdom, without giving the progeny proper and ſufficient feeding to keep them up to the ſtandard; for the deſcription does not correſpond with the common unmixed breeds of Scotch horſes.

‡ The riſe of price lately, is owing to the demand from the Southern parts of Scotland, or North of England, where our ſmall horſes are ſaid to work in the collieries.

Creels and crook-ſaddles are entirely in diſuſe. The ignorance and inattention of the farmers of this country, are more conſpicuous in the management of their ſheep, than in any other branch of rural œconomy. There are in the parith, at preſent, about 1300; but, in ſummer, there will be twice as many. The greateſt part of theſe are the ſmall white faced Scotch ſheep, which ſeem to be natives of this country; but there are a few which are bred between theſe and the black faced Tweeddale, or Linton breed, here called bruiket ſheep; and there are others, which, by the remoteneſs of the original, croſſing and intermixing again with the ſheep of the country, partake, more or leſs, of the two ſpecies.

This croſs breed has probably been at firſt brought into the country, with a view to raiſe the ſize of the carcaſe; but, although the price of ſheep has nearly tripled within theſe 40 years, neither the carcaſe nor the wool have been much attended to by our farmers, whoſe principal object, and, by their own account, chief gain, is in the dung which manures their folds. They are looked upon as prejudicial to cattle, becauſe the country people think that they eat up a great deal of the graſs; and, therefore, none but thoſe who have extenſive hill-grazings, keep any ſheep.

The hill grounds are not, however, particularly kept for ſheep; but young cattle and young horſes are turned out upon them. The flocks of ſeveral tenants generally range the ſame paſtures in common; and as every one is deſirous to keep as many as he can, they are very generally over-ſtocked. When a farmer has not a ſufficient ſtock of his own, or more paſture ground than is proportioned to his winter feeding, he takes in ſheep during the ſummer, at the very moderate rate of 2d. *per* head for three months, though, as he looks upon the dung of the animal as his profit, they are allowed

to

to remain five. In the ſummer, ſheep are turned out to the hill, to range at their own diſcretion, and, at night-fall, a boy is ſent to drive them down to the folds, from which they are frequently not releaſed till the morning is far gone.

As we have no ſhepherds, nor even good ſheep dogs, ſo there are no diviſions of the flocks, according to their ſexes, or ages, nor any ground hained for winter. In this ſeaſon, they are turned out upon the arable lands of the farm, which have not been in corn crop; and ſeldom ſent to the hill, unleſs the weather is very mild; but during ſtorms and falls of ſnow, their ſubſiſtence muſt depend upon heath || broom, or any thing elſe, which can be reached by ſcraping. No ſalve or ſmearing is uſed in this county; and if a farmer's ſtock is not very numerous, the ſheep are crammed into ſmall houſes, built for the purpoſe, during the night, and what with the alternate heat and cold they thus undergo, and the poor ſcanty feeding of this ſeaſon, they are in ſpring reduced to a very lean weakly ſtate, which it requires a conſiderable part of the ſummer to reſtore. The grounds, however, are healthy, and no very mortal or difficult diſeaſes prevail among the flocks on account of the paſture. The improper burning of heath grounds has been highly detrimental to ſheep in this country; for the farmers never conſult the proper ſituation of the place in regard to ſhelter, the nature of the ſoil, and the favourableneſs of the ſeaſon for this purpoſe; nor do they herd the burnt ground, to preſerve the tender graſs, which ſprings up, from being plucked out at the roots, by the ſheep.

|| In deep ſnows, the country people uncover the heath with ſpades, to enable the ſheep to pluck it. Farther up the Don, in the country called Strathdon, which is more ſtormy, but where they have many more, and much better ſheep than here, this is a common practice. There, likewiſe, the farmers cut off the heath, when it is in flower; and after drying them, lay them up for winter proviſion.

ſheep. The bad conſequences of improper burning are now felt, and likely to be put a ſtop to by the proprietors §. Swine are never kept here but by millers, who diſpoſe of the refuſe of the grain from theſe mills in feeding them. We have a good many markets round the country, at from 4 and 5, to 12 and 14 miles diſtance, where lean cattle are bought up by drovers, principally from the South country, and all for the ſouthern markets. Horſes are likewiſe bought and ſold in theſe markets, as well as lean ſheep. The Aberdeen butchers, in the autumn, buy the beſt graſs-fed wedders, at from 10s. 6d. to 12s.; but few if any cattle are felled here for the ſhambles, as either by combinations among the butchers, or for ſome other cauſe, the price given by them is very low, and full 30 *per cent.* under that given in Angus. There were anciently weekly markets held at Meiklendovie, in this pariſh, and great yearly fairs at that place, and Kirkton of Alford. Thoſe at Meiklendovie have been diſcontinued for many years; but there are ſtill three fairs at the Kirkton, for the ſale of cattle, horſes, ſheep, &c. and ſmall wares; but they are of no great conſequence.

The general manure in this county, is ſtable and byre dung, which the common farmers mix up with a conſiderable quantity of muckfail or clay. The muckfail is very poor turf, cut up in the neareſt muir, a practice which was once in vogue, in every quarter of Scotland; and which is ſtill looked upon in this country as a moſt important article in huſbandry, and occupies a great deal of time. Where good clay is to be had, it is uſed in preference to the muiriſh ſward; and it is certainly much better, though our in-field lands,

§ There are many laws, reſpecting the burning of heath grounds. They are all intended with a view to protect the game; but if they were chiefly enforced, they would be advantageous to ſheep, though the ground cannot always be burned in proper ſeaſon.

lands, thoſe only which are manured in this way, do by no means ſtand in need of a claying every three years. All our farmers are moſt miſerably defective in that grand requiſite in good farming, the raiſing of manure; for the whole dung made on a farm in one year, even with the addition of muck-fail or clay, is barely ſufficient for manuring one ſeventh, or, at moſt, one ſixth of the land which produced the ſtraw. All attempts to diſcover marle have hitherto proved unſucceſsful; and the only factitious manure which has been tried in this country is lime; and as trials of it have been made to a very conſiderable extent, there is no doubt of the practicability, and value of the improvement. The late Mr Innes of Breda, by liming and incloſing, accompanied by proper huſbandry, improved a property in this pariſh in twenty years, which was lately ſold at triple the price he paid for it; nor are there wanting inſtances of proprietors, and even of tenants, though above the ordinary level, who have, with equal advantage, carried on ſimilar improvements. The expence, however, though the returns with good management, in the long run, do much more than repay it, is very great. The cheapeſt method of procuring lime, is to bring it from Aberdeen, at the diſtance of from 25 to 30 miles: At that port the price is very high; for all the lime-ſhells imported there, are either from the Sunderland lime-works, in the North of England, or thoſe at Charleſtown, in the Frith of Forth, which belongs to Lord Elgin. Lime-ſhells, from the firſt, give 3 returns; and of the laſt, from 2 to $2\frac{1}{4}$ of ſlaked lime. The Aberdeen boll of lime-ſhells is four corn firlots, or 128 ſtandard Scotch pints ‖, for which the merchants receive from 3s. 1d. to 3s 3d. for Sunderland, and from 2s. 7d. to 2s. 9d. for Charleſtown ſhells. The carriage from Aberdeen to this

‖ Seven cubic feet, and 150 cubic inches.

country, of ſo bulky and heavy an article, is the chief obſtacle to improvements by means of lime. When Aberdeen carters are employed to tranſport lime-ſhells to this country, they are paid at the rate of 11s. or 12s. for every three bolls, according to the diſtance; three bolls weigh about 1300 cwt., and require two horſes, as neither the roads nor the horſes are good. Some reckon this the cheapeſt way, but others hire the carters to deliver the ſhells 15 miles from Aberdeen, where they take them up with their own cattle; and they pay at the rate of 20d. per boll; but it is not uncommon to ſend horſes and ſervants to Aberdeen with grain, and even without a load, and to bring home lime-ſhells in return. As the Sunderland ſhells contain a greater quantity of calcareous matter in the ſame bulk, and in leſs weight, than thoſe of Charleſtown, they are generally uſed here, and at the rate of from 16 to 20 bolls per Scotch acre, which, when properly applied, have conſtantly worked great effects. The great expence of liming, eſpecially in the carriage, which, with their weak ill fed cattle, the country people cannot avoid, has hitherto deterred them from uſing it as a manure to any extent; and, indeed, without a total alteration of their mode of cropping, it would be dangerous and hurtful to their farms. Heavy as the expence of procuring lime, in this country, is, the advantages of it in meliorating the ſoil, are ſo great, that it may be looked upon as an article highly eſſential; and neceſſary for attempting or carrying on improvements. The only means to diminiſh this expence, are either to diſcover tolerable workable limeſtone in the country, or to lower the expence of carriage. The attempts to diſcover workable lime-ſtone, have not hitherto been either general, or well conducted, and though there are many indications of it in the country, no regular quarry has been hitherto found. It is probable, that the gentlemen will ſoon turn their thoughts

with

with ſome effect, to that important object, and if they are ſucceſsful, we ſhall have lime-ſhells as cheap, at leaſt, as they can be purchaſed at Aberdeen, after defraying all expences, the heavieſt of which will be the price and carriage of coals from Aberdeen to burn the limeſtone. If this great ſource of improvement fail, our only other alternative, is, to cheapen the carriage, by altering and mending the roads, which have lately begun to receive very great attention in this country.

There are few fields properly incloſed, but thoſe which ſurround gentlemen's ſeats; and the only fences which may be called good, are ſtone dykes though there is little doubt that, upon a proper plan, with proper preparation and attention, thorns would thrive well, make good fences, and, conſequently, a moſt valuable and laſting improvement in this country; but they have in very few places had a fair trial. The country people are not averſe to incloſures, though they will neither build nor pay a per centage for building ſtone dykes, which coſt from 2½d. to 4d. per Scotch ell §, according to the materials and height of the dyke; beſides carriage of the ſtones; and they cannot bear the trouble of protecting or raiſing a thorn hedge. They ſeldom make a proper uſe of incloſures where they have them; for it is not uncommon to ſee an incloſed field in patches of corn and graſs; the only real uſe of incloſures to them, therefore, is to ſerve as a barrier to the farm in winter, when, if the weather is open, the cattle of the great and of the ſmall farmer, range promiſcuouſly over the whole country, without regard to any farm or any boundaries. This practice has been prohibited ‖ by the Legiſlature long

§ A Scotch ell is little more than 37 Engliſh inches.

‖ Winter feeding was ſtrictly enjoined, and the practice of turning out cattle, to go at random, prohibited, under ſevere penalties, in 1606. The utility of the law is obvious.—Pity that it is not more rigorouſly executed.

ago, and it deserves very severe reprobation, as it is a most effectual bar to improvements of every kind; and especially to the culture of grass and corn crops.

The wages of farm servants have been very greatly raised within these few years in this country, owing to the great demand and high price of labour in Angus, the Mearns, and Southern parts of Scotland, together with that occasioned by the number of extensive manufactories, recently erected in Aberdeen. Forty years ago, a man's yearly wages were from 16l. Scotch, or 1l. 6s. 8d. Sterling, to 1l. 13s. 4d. and a woman's 16 merks, or 17s. 9½d. and they are now from 5l. 10s. to 6l. for a man, and 2l. 10s. for a woman. Though these wages do not appear high, when compared with those given in other parts of Scotland, they are very severely felt by the farmers of this country; and indeed, when it is considered that servants in this quarter do not work as in other places; that the extent of ground ploughed, harrowed, reaped, &c. is very great, when compared to the produce; that for these reasons many servants are required; and that the maintenance of them is a much higher article than their wages, especially where there are many mouths; and when, in addition to to these pecuniary disadvantages, the difficulty in procuring servants, their waste, indolence, carelessness, and insolence, are taken into account, it is not to be wondered at, that the expence of farm servants, in this country, cuts very deep upon the produce of the farm, or (as the tenants generally say) that it is a greater burden on them than their rent. Besides the ordinary servants of his farm, a farmer has to provide a number of extra hands for his harvest work. This work is never done by the piece or day, but an agreed-upon-sum, together with the reapers victuals, (frequently accompanied by

very

very ridiculous ſtipulations *) are given as a harveſt fee, during the whole time of cutting down and carrying home the corns. Theſe harveſt fees have been riſing for ſome years, and are now 1l. 15s. or 2l. for a man, and 1l. for a woman, beſides victuals; and the riſk of bad weather, to protract the harveſt, and lay hands idle, whom the farmer muſt maintain, and every thing elſe being taken into view, it will be found, that the expence of harveſt work runs very greatly out of proportion to that of every other ſpecies of labour. This diſproportion is the cauſe of many of the grievances we feel, with regard to ordinary ſervants; for theſe high harveſt fees being nearly equivalent to a half years wages, not only deter the people, eſpecially women ‡, from engaging to work to a maſter, but induces ſervants to deſert their ſervice upon the ſlighteſt pretences; and it is much to be regretted, that the diſlike of getting what they call a bad word, among ſervants, generally ties up the farmer from applying for that redreſs which the law affords. The ſame ſilly idea leads them to give way to the groſſeſt abuſes in their domeſtic concerns. A farmer muſt often riſe from bed at 3 or 4 o'clock, in a winter's morning, to admit his ſervants, who have been junketting all night in the neighbourhood; and he muſt perform all the morning work of a farm, in tending cattle, &c. long before they get up, to aſſiſt him; nor is it uncommon for a farmer to go with his cart and horſes to Aberdeen himſelf, becauſe he will not only take better care of his cattle, but perform the journey at leſs expence than his ſervant. In ſhort, the

* Such as, for example, that the reaper ſhall have ſuch and ſuch perſons on the ſame ridge with him.

‡ Women, when they are not engaged as ſervants, ſpin, and make their own clothes, or work ſtockings, till the harveſt approach; and thus are gainers by not entering into farmers ſervice.

the common meaning of language here is totally reverſed; and ſervants do not ſo much ſerve, as rule and tyrannize over their maſters. The ſubtenants and cottars do not work much to the principal tenants; but they pay them higher rents than the principal pays to his landlord, and they eaſe him of a good many ſervices; and though this claſs of poſſeſſors of land add to the population of a country, they are not, here at leaſt, always to be reckoned the moſt uſeful and induſtrious members of ſociety. There are many of them, who, if their ſmall piece of ground will barely find them ſubſiſtence, will not endeavour to better their condition by labour or induſtry, though there is always work enough for labourers; and they lead an eaſy, indolent life, except in harveſt, which is a ſeaſon of general exertion. The wages of artificers here are as high as in any part of Scotland, and thoſe of day labourers are 8d. in ſummer and 6d. in winter; high enough, conſidering their work; yet the high price of meal commonly proves a ſtronger inducement to make them work than theſe wages. Working by the piece, except at maſon-work and dyking, is not general in this country; nor will the country people undertake it even for common works, ſuch as trenching, ditching, &c. unleſs they have an enormous profit.

The fuel of this country is peat, wood, turf, heath broom, &c. With the firſt, there are only two eſtates in the pariſh ſupplied; and though the tenants of thoſe properties are on a better footing than the others, ſtill the labour of procuring peats is ſo great, that it admits of a doubt, whether coal, under the diſadvantages of a high price, and a long carriage, would not be cheaper. Except the roots and crops of trees, wood is little uſed for fuel, as it is very expenſive; and broom and heath require much labour.

Roads.

Roads.—The roads in this county have been originally formed, either by the ſtatute labour, or by the military, under the order of Government. Of this laſt deſcription, there are two roads which croſs each other, in this pariſh; the great Northern road, which leads from Fettercairn, over the Cairn of Month to Huntly, and the road which goes from Aberdeen to Corgarff, a military ſtation on the ſources of Don. Both theſe roads, ſince their formation by the ſoldiery, have been kept in repair by the ſtatute labour of the ſeveral pariſhes through which they paſs, as far as it would go, to maintain them jointly with other roads in the pariſhes. The ſtatute labour has not been hitherto converted into money in this country; and, of conſequence, as in every other country where the ſtatute labour is performed in work by the country people, it is found inadequate to the ſupport of the roads, both public and parochial. The laſt mentioned military road, forms the communication between a very extenſive country and the city of Aberdeen, and has, of late, as well as on ſeveral former occaſions, become almoſt impaſſable. In aid of the ſtatute labour, the gentlemen whoſe eſtates ly in this country, have twice made very liberal ſubſcriptions for it's repair; but in 1792, when it was again in a very bad ſtate, after mature conſideration, its direction, for a conſiderable way, was found to be highly improper; and it was agreed, that a new road, for nearly 9 miles in length, with a view to obviate the diſadvantages of the old track, ſhould be undertaken. L. 600. has been ſubſcribed for this purpoſe, and the work is conſiderably advanced. When it is finiſhed, there is good reaſon to expect, that the improvement of this country will go on with aditional briſkneſs, as it will give us an excellent communication with our chief market place, and enable the farmer to bring home lime, coal, and the other neceſſary articles of country conſumption, much more eaſily,

eaſily, and therefore more cheaply, than he has been wont to do.

Manufactures.—The only manufacture in this county worth mentioning, is that of knitting ſtockings, which has been long eſtabliſhed in Aberdeenſhire*. The country part of the manufacture, is carried on entirely by women, to whom the wool is delivered out by the Aberdeen ſtocking merchants, who have fixed ſtations over the country, for giving out wool, receiving ſtockings, and reckoning with thoſe whom they employ. The wool is almoſt all imported from England, and none of the growth of the country is manufactured; for which reaſon, our wool is very inferior, and the fleeces of a flock not worth more than 6d. each, on an average. It is ſpun and worked into ſtockings, at a price proportioned to their fineneſs or coarſeneſs; and the average gain of a good worker, will be 2s. per week. This manufacture has contributed to keep hands in the country; but it admits of ſome doubt, whether theſe hands might not be more profitably employed, and whether the manufacture has promoted the intereſts of agriculture; but it certainly contributes little to health, and conduces leſs to morality.

Antiquities.—In this pariſh, the Marquis of Montroſe, upon the 2d day of July 1645, won the battle of Alford, by defeating Baillie, one of the Generals of the Covenanters; but his cauſe ſuſtained an irreparable loſs, in the death of the Lord Gordon, the eldeſt ſon of the Marquis of Huntly, who fell

* According to the accounts of the Aberdeen merchants, (who export all the ſtockings, either to Holland and the northern parts of Germany, from whence they are often ſent to America) the ſum circulated through the country in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, merely for ſpinning the wool and knitting the ſtockings, is from 70,000l. to 90,000l. per annum. Theſe accounts are, however, in all probability, much beyond the truth.

fell by a random ſhot, in the purſuit, near a large ſtone on the field of battle, which is ſtill pointed out by the country people. About 50 years ago, ſome men, in caſting peats, dug up the body of a man on horſeback and in complete armour, who had been drowned either in the purſuit, or flight from this engagement; and formerly, the country people were in uſe, when caſting peats, to find ball, and pieces of money *, which had, probably, dropped from the flying, and eſcaped the ſearch of the victors. Upon the top of a little hill, there is an immenſe cairn, from which a ſmall property in this pariſh takes the name of Carneveran, though the import of that word is not known. This cairn is 120 yards in circumference, and of a proportionable height. Of this great monument, there is no very diſtinct tradition, though ſome think that it marks the burial place of a brother of one of the Kings of Scotland. No more certain accounts can be given of a pretty large cairn, which lately ſtood at a place called Cairnballoch; but, when it was removed ſome years ago, there was found near the bottom, a ſort of cheſt, compoſed of thin flat ſtones, containing an earthen veſſel filled with aſhes, which mouldered away upon being expoſed to the air. In the pariſh, there is an eminence called the Gallow Hill, which had been anciently a place of execution; and nails, and other pieces of ruſty iron, are turned over by the plough, near the ſummit, where the gallows had been erected. Many

* Some of the coins are in the cuſtody of Mr Farquharſon of Haughton; and as it may gratify a curious reader to know the coins which appear to have been then current, two of them ſhall be deſcribed. They are ſilver; and the firſt is a two florin piece of Maximilian, Count Palatine, &c. having, on one ſide, his arms, ſurrounded by the Poiſon d'or, and, on the reverſe, the the Patroneſs of Bavaria, with the ſame legend which is ſtill uſed. The other is a dollar of Phil. 4, of Spain, having on one ſide the arms of Spain and Auſtria, and the collar of the Golden Fleece, and on the reverſe, a a croſs fleuri.

of the parishioners report, though without much credibility, that Gregory the Great was buried in the parish; and there are several predictions current among the country people, attributed by them to Thomas the Rhymer, which it would be unnecessary to recite. There are two old houses in the parish; one of them, Astoune, was built between two and three hundred years ago, and seems to have been a place of some strength. It was a square building, with a round tower at each of two opposite angles, of which there is one still remaining, though the greater part of the house was pulled down 40 years ago. The first storey was all vaulted, and there was a well in one of the vaults; but the towers were a continuation of one vault above another to the roof.

About two thirds of the parish belongs to one proprietor, who is an occasional resident, and the remainder is divided among five others, two of whom reside constantly. The valued rent is 3126l. 12s. 8d. and the neat rent may be about 1500l. 19s. Sterling.

Animals.—The Don abounds with trout, and, after high floods, with salmon, which, when the river is low, cannot get up on account of the crieve dykes, near its mouth. There are no pikes, and few eels in this part of its course. A bridge over the Don in the line of the great northern road, would be highly serviceable to this country. Besides the Don, there are several inferior streams, which pass through the parish, well stocked with trout, &c. Upon one of them, the Lochel, a bridge was built by Mr Melvine, then clergyman of this parish, in the end of the last century, and it is still kept in good repair, by a mortification of 100 merks, which he left in the charge of the minister and kirk session, for that purpose.

In the parish there are a few Red and Roe Deer, lately attracted to the country by the extensive plantations; and we have foxes, polecats, weasels, the Scotch ermine, and the Mus-

covy

covy rat, who has travelled up the banks of the river from Aberdeen. We have likewiſe a few muir-fowl, and plenty of hares, patridges, ſnipes, plovers, and wild ducks; and, at particular ſeaſons, curlews, woodcocks, dottrels, and ſcail drakes. Of other birds, the country is infeſted with hawks of almoſt all ſorts; the falcon, ſparrow-hawk, martin, and a rare ſpecies, commonly called blue ſleeves, and with kites of different ſizes and deſcriptions. The hooded crows are not ſo numerous, but rooks and daws are in prodigious numbers. Sometimes the great woodpecker has been found in our woods, and the king's-fiſher on the river, though they are exceeding rare. In general, our woods have increaſed the number of the birds and beaſts of prey, and conſequently diminiſhed the quantity of game in the country.

Church, School and Poor.—The church is old, and bears date 1603. The manſe was built in 1718, and has been repaired, and is convenient. The ſtipend is 60l. 13s. 4d. including communion elements, and graſs money; 2 chalders of meal, and 1 of bear, beſides a glebe of 4 acres, and a garden. The laſt Epiſcopal clergyman in this pariſh was Mr Jeffrey, who was removed about the year 1715, and Mr Gordon, the firſt Preſbyterian Miniſter (and a conſiderable leader in the Church of Scotland), was ſettled in 1717, and removed to Alloa in 1735. The preſent incumbent is his third ſucceſſor.

The ſchool-ſalary is 13 bolls of meal, and 2l. ariſing from a mortification, and 40 merks, or 2l. 4s. 5$\frac{1}{4}$d. as the fee of a ſeſſion clerk. The emoluments of the ſchool will not much exceed 3l. The whole amount is too ſlender an allowance for any perſon properly qualified to diſcharge the important duties which this claſs of men owe to the public.

The funds for the maintenance of the poor, are the intereſt of 200l. of mortified money, and the weekly collections at church, together with the fines of delinquents. Theſe funds

are

are applied to the ſupport from 12 to 17 paupers, none of whom are permitted to go about begging, though the country is overrun with people of that deſcription. In the bad ſeaſons of 1782 and 1783, the kirk-ſeſſion were obliged to extend their charity more generally, and, with the conſent of the heritors, laid out a part of their capital in purchaſing grain to ſupply the poorer inhabitants of the pariſh, who were in thoſe years reduced to great want.

Population.—The population in 1755 was 990.

The number of ſouls under 10 years of age in the pariſh, are, - - 133

From 10 to 20	-	132
20 to 40	-	210
40 to 60	-	105
60 to 70	-	74
70 to 80	-	5
80 to 90	-	4
Total,		663

Of theſe there are 310 males and 353 females.

The number of marriages and baptiſms for 14 years from 1780, are as follows

	1780	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	Tot.
Marriages	7	2	9	2	5	5	4	4	4	1	4	6	3	6	62
Baptiſms,	12	19	6	12	10	14	12	7	11	13	6	9	13	6	150

The regiſter of marriages is very exact, and there are none irregular; ſo that the average may be ſtated at 4 $\frac{3}{7}$ per annum. The regiſter of baptiſms is very inaccurate, and probably not one half of them entered, ſo that no concluſion can be drawn from it. There is no record whatever of deaths. Of artificers there are in the pariſh, 2 maſons, 9 joiners, wrights, coopers, and turners, two of whom make a variety of muſical inſtruments without any education for that purpoſe; 6 weavers, 3 black-ſmiths, 10 taylors, 6 country merchants, 4 millers,

millers, and 2 dyers; but they all have ſmall poſſeſſion of land to ſupport them as well as their trade.

The pariſh regiſter goes no farther back than 1717, and is ſo very irregular, that it is impoſſible from it to procure any data for aſcertaining the ancient population of the pariſh, not even at the time of the return to Dr Webſter. But that the number of inhabitants in the pariſh has decreaſed very greatly, within a few years, is not to be doubted; and the principal cauſe ſeems to be the great encouragement given at Aberdeen by the manufactures to labouring people. This pariſh was, however, in all probability, much more populous 100 years ago, than at the time of Dr Webſter's report; and the reaſon of the decreaſe ſeems to be, that by the wearing out of the moſſes, fuel has become ſcarcer than it was at that time; a reaſon which will ſtill tend to diminiſh the number of inhabitants, till a more improved ſtate of the country enable the people to ſupport the expence of coal.

There are no prevalent diſeaſes in this pariſh, excepting the hooping cough, meaſles, and ſmall pox, none of which are fatal; the danger of the laſt is much abated by inoculation, which is becoming very general. There are ſeveral mineral ſprings in the pariſh, and though their waters are not ſtrong; ſome of them have been attended with advantages.

Character.—In their general character, the people are well entitled to commendation, for an obliging hoſpitable diſpoſition, for their religious conduct, and regular attendance of divine worſhip, and for having laid aſide that quarrelſome temper which once prevailed, without adopting in its ſtead the ſpirit of litigiouſneſs that has ſucceeded it in many places; but candour muſt acknowledge, though they poſſeſs in general a laudable œconomy, they have not yet fully acquired

thoſe

thoſe habits of labour and induſtry, that have bettered the condition of the lower claſſes of people, in other parts of Scotland; an acquiſition which muſt always and every where be gradual in its beginnings, and which it is hoped, a few years will haſten on in this country.

That predilection and prejudice in favour of ancient modes of huſbandry, which has ſtill ſome ſtrong roots in this corner, is not ſo blameable, as it has been ſo very general, and exerted itſelf ſo vigorouſly in every country, in the commencement of improvements; but when fair means are taken to open the eyes of the people, by examples and indiſputable experiments, perſevering in them is not ſo excuſeable; and ſome degree of this cenſure muſt be applied to our farmers, in perſiſting in their old practices, when they ſee 10 or 12 bolls of grain raiſed by good huſbandry, where they could only raiſe 3 or 4, and excellent crops of turnips and artificial graſſes, where they denied the poſſibility of producing them. This cenſure, however, is much leſs merited than it was, ſome years ago; and the operations of a few years more may change it into applauſe.

This account cannot be concluded better, than by a paper, found in the charter cheſt of Mr Farquharſon of Haughton, of a court of the barony of Alford, during the Uſurpation of the Convention Parliament of Scotland.—The tranſaction which it records, ſhews, that the means which they or their adherents (for the then proprietor of the barony was a moſt zealous covenanter) employed, to ſupply their treaſury, maintain their forces, and ſupport their power, were not very diſſimular to thoſe that have been ſo recently and tyrannically put in practice in a neighbouring Kingdom; for when the low ſtate of agriculture, the general poverty of the country, and the ſlender means of the commonalty, at that time, are contraſted, with the heavineſs of the taxation impoſed, and the ſeverity of the regulations for enforcing payment, it is well entitled to be compared to a forced loan.

It furniſhes a ſtrong proof, that in this, as in every other country, arbitrary exactions have followed hard, after the fall of equitable government; and it is a ſtriking example of the burdens and oppreſſions, which, when lawful authority is overturned, muſt be born, not only by the rich and the great,

but

but by the humble and the poor, by the friends, as well as the enemies of thoſe who ſubvert the order, the peace, and the juſtice of ſociety.

This paper demands attention, alſo, as affording ſome proof of the ancient population of this diſtrict. All the perſons taxed held poſſeſſions from the laird, and were heads of families, with cottars, graſſmen, ſub-tenants. and ſervants under them, from whom they were to receive ſome relief of the burden of the tax.

The number taxed by name is . .	61
And for the Kirkton of Alford there may be allowed	3
Total of families renting land	64
The number of thoſe who hold of the proprietor at preſent is	40
Decreaſe	24

This decreaſe is a diminution of the number of families; and, if we ſuppoſe the numbers of ſervants &c. and ſub-tenants, was in proportion at that time to the number of tenants, the total decreaſe of the number of ſouls muſt be very great.

It is proper to obſerve, that this eſtate was formerly much better provided with moſs than any other in the pariſh, or the country in general, which may have occaſioned a more than ordinary number of inhabitants.

The Court of the landis and barronie of Petfluge, Meikle Endovie, Bandley, Badivin, and others pertinentts, with Aidgethen, Walhouſe, Midmill, Kirktoune of Alfuird, and thir pertinetts, be the richt honourable Jon Forbes of Leſly, heritorr thereof, halden at Petflug, the tent day of Aguſt, Iaivi and fourtie and aught years. *Thomas Davidſone* portioner, of Aigethen, bailzie; *Williame Reid*, clarke of court; *George Touch* in Dykeheid, officiar; *Dempſter* the futtis, callet members prent, the court ſenſit in forme and maneir as effeirs.

The ſaid day compeirit George Touch, in Dykeheid, and hes givven his aith to be honeſt and trew in ye office officiarie, in ye ground and baronie of Pitfluge, ay and tyll he be diſchargit.

The ſaid day compeirit Alexander Wat, being perſewit for to ſcheir in harveſt to Williame Paterſone, in Bandley; and being accuſit, hes givven his aith to be free of the ſaid perſute; and theirfoir, the ſaid Alexander Wat moſt pay his teynd of beir and aitts: ſine the ſaid Alexander, his wyf is obleigt to ſcheir in harveſt to Williame Paterſone in Bandley.

The ſaid day, James Ingrahame in Mikill Endovie, is decerenit and ordenirt be ye bailze, to go hame to Jon Couper, and mike his actuell reſidence

dence in his meilling and ground, and to pey for the ſame as he hes promeiſſchet, and ſic lyke to pay to James Winter, ſike deweties and ferm as he hes promiſſit to him for this yeir, according as they ar agreeit; or elſs to pey the failze as the bailze decerns.

The ſaid day it is decernit to pey be Jon Smyth in Cleymyr, 3 dollars for levie and tranſport moneyis to ye forces, betwixt this and the day aught dayes.

Mr William Zong, in Cleymyr,	twa dollers and ane half.
Mr Patrike Innes, in Petflug,	ane doller.
Mr Alexander Smyth, in Shathheid,	4 dollers.
Mr George Touch, in Dykcheid,	1 doller and ane half.
Mr Andrew Smyth, in Bentts,	fourtie ſhilling.
Jon Bainet, in Bentts,	2 dollers.
Jon Mitchell, yr,	1 doller.
James Chalmer, in Mikill Endovie,	ten mks.
Duncan Mitchell, in Bandley,	3 dollers.
Alexander Ritchie, in Bandley,	ten mks.
Tomas Muſchant, cordiner,	1 doller.
William Jameſone, webſter,	1 doller.
James Ingrahame, tailzeor,	1 doller.
Jon Mikie, ſmyth in Mckill Endovie,	1 mk, peyit.
James Edie, milliart,	1 doller, peyit.
Robert Gib, in Petflug.	1 doller.
Mr Alexander Calder, in Famtowne.	1 doller.
Mr James Mar, yr,	40 ſs.
Mr James Marnoch, in Elriche,	1 doller.
Mr Jon Walker, yr,	1 doller.
Walter Robertſone, in Cleymyr,	1 doller.
Tomas Galloway, Mikill Endovie,	1 doller.
William Forbes, in Mikill Endovie,	fyvve mks.
Elſſpit Wilſon, yr,	half doller.
Adam Burnet, yr,	half doller.
Elſſpit Coupland, in Bandley,	1 mk.
Alexander Wat, in Bandley,	fourtie ſchillings, peyit.
Jon Mitchell, in Badivin,	1 doller.
James Banie, in Badivin,	1 doller.
William Wyr, in Smiddiehill.	1 doller.
Alexander Mitchell, yr,	1 merk.
Jon Mikie, in Greyſtane,	40 ſchilling, peyit.
James Edwart, in Aidgethen,	2 dollers.
William Edwart, yr,	1 doller.
Alexander Yuill,	half doller.

George

Georg Marnoch, in Mikill Endovie, . 40 ſchillinges.
William Gilleſpie, in Elrike. . . 20 ſchillinges.
William Ritchie, in Bandley, . . 40 ſchillinges.
Jon Anderſone, yeir, . . 1 merk.
Andrew Barrie, Badivin, . . 20 ſchilling.
Alexander Criſtiſone, yr, . . . 1 mk.
James Martin, in Aidgethen, . 4 libs.
James Mortimer, yr, . . 1 mk.
James Couper, ye zounger, . . 1 mk.
Jon Pailzeor, in Alfuird, . . 1 mk.
William Perrie, in Walhous, . . 20 ſchilling.

Jane Scot, Mikill Endovie, and his nuriſh 20 ſchilling; Iſobell Mill, in Elrike, 10 ſchillings; Kirſtane Coutts in Bandley, 10 ſchillings; Margret Gleny yr, 10 ſchillings; Iſobell Leang in Badivin, 10 ſchillings; Margret Edwart, in Aidgethen, 10 ſchillings; Kirſtane Couper in Aidgethen, 10 ſchillings.

The ſaid day it is ſtatut and ordenit, be ye bailze, to pey and delyver peyit

to James Wince in Mikill Endovie, 5 mks, 40 pence.
Item. Elſpet Storach in Bandley, . . 5 mks, and 40 pence.
Item. the Leard himſelf for the manifs, . . 5 mks, and 40 pence.
Item. Patrick Mortimer in Greyſtane, . . 5 mks, and 40 pence.
James Couper in Aidgethen, . . . 5 mks and 40 pence.
Item. William Forbes in Middlehill, . . 5 mks, and 40 pence.
Item. John Coupland in Bandley, . . 5 mks, 40 pence, peyit.

The ſaid day it is ordainit and decernit, be ye bailze, that all the forſaid perſons that peyis nocht the forſaid moneyis above written, betwix this and the day aught dayis, ſal be poyndit for the dowbill.

Item. the Kirktoune of Alfuird, the haill of it, 5 merks, 40 pence, peyit.

The ſaid day it is ſtatut and ordainit, be ye laird and bailze, that the maſteris of the cotters, girſmen, and others, ſervents that dwells with them, ſal be obleight for yeir ſervents; and gif the pey nocht their maiſteris, they ſal be pyndit for the dowbill, betwix this and ye daye aught dayes, of ye levie and tranſport moneyis, and the poyndis to be delyverit to ye maiſtries, and never to be relievyit agane.

The ſaid it is ſtatut and ordainit, that the forſaid act ſal be extendit to ye Over and Nether Hach, to ye tennentts, ſub-tenents and occupiers thereof, and the execution to paſs aganis yame for therr publick dewis, and levie money, and tranſport moneyis, monthly mantenence, putting out of fit and horſe, conform to ye compt of deburſements to be equalie devydid amang yame, as ye reſt of ye ground hes done.

Continuis this court to ſeventie four hours warning.

Gulielmus Reid, notarius publicus ac teſtis in præmiſſis, rogatus et requiſitus.

DAVIDSONE, *Belzie.*

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF KILBARCHAN,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW, PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

By the Rev. PATRICK MAXWELL, *Minister.*

Name.

THE name *Kilbarchan*, ſeems to have orginated from the perſon who firſt founded a place of worſhip here.

Some, however, think the name compounded of three Gaelic words; viz. *Kil*, ſignifying *chapel*, *bar* or *brae*, a *hill*, *chan* a *valley* or *plain*. According to this derivation, *Kilbarchan*, means the *chapel of the hill-bounded vale*.

This laſt derivation is exactly deſcriptive of the local poſition of the village, in which the church is ſituated. It is built upon a declivity, which terminates in a plain towards the South, through which runs a clear rivulet, of the ſame name. It is ſurrounded on three ſides, with hilly grounds, having the Banks Brae to the South-weſt, the lands of Law to the North

North-weſt, and the Bar Brae to the Eaſt, all moſt beautifully adorned with thriving plantations of trees.

Extent, Boundaries, Rivers.—The pariſh of Kilbarchan is betwixt 8 and 9 miles in length, from Weſt to Eaſt. Its greateſt breadth is 5 miles, two where narroweſt; and its average breadth about 3 miles. Its whole ſurface may amount to about 24 ſquare miles. It is bounded on the South and Eaſt by the water of Black Cart, which runs from the lakes of Kilburnie and Lochwinnock, on the Weſt; on the North by Cryfe water, which takes its riſe in Duchal muir, in the adjoining pariſh of Kilmacolm; theſe two ſtreams form a junction at the North-eaſt corner of the pariſh †.

† There is alſo a conſiderable rivulet, named Locher, which has its ſource in Lochwinnock muir, and divides the pariſhes of Lockwinnock and Kilmacolm, before it enters this pariſh. It then runs nearly the whole length of the pariſh, parallel to the two ſtreams above mentioned; forming, in its progreſs, ſeveral beautiful caſcades, of which to convey a proper idea, would require the pencil.

The whole fall of the Black Cart is occupied with cotton mills, four of which are ſituated in the Abbey pariſh of Paiſley, on the ſouthern bank of the river, and one on the Northern bank, to be afterwards deſcribed.

From the Gryfe on the North, this county derived its moſt ancient name of *Strathgryfe*. The tide makes about a mile up both Gryfe and Cart, and they are navigable to that extent from their point of junction. But from the cotton mills erected on Cart, it is aſcertained that the elevation of Kilburnie loch, above the level of the ſea, does not exceed 84 feet. This loch runs indifferently, either Eaſtward or Weſtward, and might eaſily be conveyed Eaſtward by a canal to Paiſly and Glaſgow, or Weſtward to the ocean.

Gryfe, Cart, and Locher abound with ſalmon, pyke, trout, parr. The ſalmon are caught in June and July, weigh from 3 to 8 lb., and bring about 3d. per lb. The other fiſh are ſeldom ſold.

The whole pariſh is abundantly ſupplied with ſprings and rivulets of very pure water, which is of great advantage to the bleachers ſettled here, in whitening their cloth. In the low part of the pariſh, where the ſoil is deep

clay

Climate, Surface, Soil.—The climate is very wet, but is not eſteemed unhealthy.

The eaſtern diviſion of the pariſh is a flat, level country, the weſtern is hilly and in part rocky. About one third of the Eaſt and North-eaſt, conſiſts of a very deep clay.

Of this eaſtern diviſion, 500 acres are occupied by a moſs from 7 to 9 feet in depth; the common property of Lord Semple, Mr Spiers of Elderſlie, Mr Cunningham of Craigends, and Mr Napier of Blackſtone. About an acre of this moſs is annually taken off in peats, by the neighbouring inhabitants. The ſoil below is a deep white clay, where has formerly been a foreſt. The oak is perfectly freſh; the other kinds of timber are rotten. The ſtumps in general are ſtanding in their original poſition. The trees are all broken over at about the height of 3 feet, and are lying from South-weſt to North-eaſt. So wherever you ſee a ſtump, you are ſure to find a tree to the North-eaſt. How an oak tree could break over at that particular place, I never could underſtand. But we may be allowed to form a conjecture, that before the tree fell, the moſs had advanced along its ſtem, and rotted it there. Wood, immerſed in a wet body, is found to decay firſt at the ring between the wet and the dry.

The theory of moſſes is now illuſtrated in a ſatisfactory manner. They have all been woods at a former period. Theſe being cut, or falling down, hindered the water from getting off the ground where they lay. This encouraged the moſs plants to grow over them. Theſe plants, while rotting below, continue to grow above. Hence a moſs continually increaſes in depth. The poſition of the trees in moſt moſſes, from

clay, the ſprings are leſs frequent; and the rivulets become muddy in their progreſs. But the inhabitants have adopted the method of purifying their water, by filtering ſtones, which renders it as good as any in the world.

from South-weſt, to North-eaſt, inſtead of being an objection, confirms this hypotheſis; for all our trees are bent in this direction, by the prevailing current of our winds. A tree, whether cut down or decaying, naturally falls in the direction to which it leaned while growing. The Romans produced many moſſes by cutting down the woods, to which our anceſtors fled for ſhelter. Others have doubtleſs been produced from woods allowed to fall through decay.

From what has been obſerved of the quick growth of moſs, it ſhould ſeem that this one is not very ancient. What confirms this opinion is, that many places round this, and other moſſes in this country, ſtill retain the name of *wood*. As Fulwood, Linwood, Birchenhead, Woodhead, Woodſide, Oak-Shaw-head, (*ſhaw* is *wood*) Walkinſhaw, &c.

Advancing weſtward from this flat and level part of the pariſh, where the ſoil is of a deep ſtiff clay, the ſurface becomes diverſified with gentle riſings. The ſoil here conſiſts of a more friable and loamy clay, intermixed with ſtones. Two thirds of the pariſh weſtward is of a light and ſhallow ſoil, compoſed of the mouldered particles of whin rocks, on which it reſts. This ſoil, where of ſufficient depth, is extremely fertile. As you advance weſtward, the ground becomes more and more rocky, with patches of the ſame light ſhallow ſoil, interpoſed between the rocks. Among the rocks are ſeveral ſwamps, which proper draining would reduce to an excellent ſoil. In theſe higher parts, there is very little heath, and, with a little lime, theſe ſhallow ſoils produce graſs and corn of an excellent quality.

The rocks here are wholly compoſed of whin. Many of them have a baſaltic appearance. The north ſide of the Barhill is a baſaltic perpendicular rock; though not very regular in its formation. All the low part of the pariſh abounds in excellent

excellent free-ſtone, and the north-weſt with Oſmond ſtone, in great requeſt for ovens *.

Antiquities.

* Mr Napier of Blackſtone has planted about 15 acres of moſs bent, that is, the ſtuff left after the peat is taken off, with trees of all kinds. They have been planted about 17 years, and are in a thriving condition, although growing upon 4 feet of moſs.

In the year 1767, James Milliken of Milliken, Eſq; planted a number of fir, with a mixture of other trees, on the Bar-brae, among tremendous and precipitous rocks, which he had encloſed for that purpoſe. He made a fine foot-paſſage from his houſe, around the bottom of the rocks, among the broken fragments of baſalts, formerly impaſſable. It is amazing to ſee the progreſs the different kinds of fir have made among theſe rugged rocks. However, I find the pines anſwer beſt on a rocky ſoil, as their fibres find crevices in which they ſecurely fix themſelves, and often form a kind of net-work around the ſtones. Here they are better ſecured againſt the violence of the winds, and ſuffer leſs from the ſummer's drought, than when they are planted in a light gravelly ſoil. In this laſt ſituation, their horizontal fibres can have but little hold of the earth, and their perpendicular roots are ſo ſmall that they are eaſily ſhaken with the wind. If they be planted where there is a clay bottom, the damp of it chills them. Upon this eſtate of Milliken, there are about 80 acres of thriving planting.

At Craigends, the property of Mr Cunningham, there are 30 acres of planting, in which are found ſome very ſtately old aſh, elm, and plane trees, ſuperior to any in the pariſh. One aſh, in particular, deſerves attention. It meaſures 5 feet in diameter at 18 inches above the ground. The trunk, which is perfectly ſtraight, riſes 45 feet without a branch, and its top is in proportion to the whole.

Dr Colquhoun purchaſed in 1787, upon the higher grounds, north weſt of the pariſh, 369 acres, on which there was then no planting. In 1789 and 1790, he planted about 16 acres with all kinds of trees, in large clumps. He thought this ſufficient for an experiment; but as the plantations are thriving beyond his moſt ſanguine expectation, he does not mean to ſtop.

This ſeaſon, 1794, Mr M'Dowal of Walkingſhaw is employed planting trees of every kind on ſome rocky ſpots on the north-weſt of the pariſh. Indeed it were to be wiſhed the ſeveral proprietors would plant off all the rocky ſpots in the high and weſtern parts of the pariſh. The experiments already made, ſhew that the planting would thrive. The intermediate ſpots, which admit the plough, ſhould be kept as much in paſture as poſſible: for the ſoil being

Antiquities.—About 2 miles weſt of the village, on an elevated plain, is ſituated a huge ſtone, called Clochodrick. This name is ſuppoſed to be a corruption of the words *Cloch o Druids*, the ſtone of the Druids. It conſiſts of the ſame ſpecies of whinſtone of which the neighbouring hills are compoſed. This ſtone is about 22 feet long, 17 feet broad, and 12 feet high. It is of a rude oval figure, extending Eaſt and Weſt; but ſeveral fragments have been broken off, either from deſign, or by the injuries of the weather. It ſeems to reſt in a narrow baſe below, and perhaps, like other druidical ſtones, was capable of being moved; but the lower part is now filled up with ſtones gathered from the land, over which the graſs is growing. From the weſtern ſide, there is a gradual aſcent to the eaſt, which is the higheſt part. At ſome diſtance round, are ſeen a few large grey ſtones; but whether they once made a part of a ſacred incloſure, or are merely accidental, cannot now be aſcertained, as the land where they ly is in tillage; and it is probable, the moſt moveable of them have been carried off. A ſmall rivulet runs to the weſtward of the ſtone. There are no remains of a ſacred grove, except a ſolitary tree.

It appears, that this ſtone has been hewn from an elevated rock, a little to the Eaſt, on which ſtands a farm houſe, called alſo, Clochodrick; but, by what mechaniſm it was brought

being very light, too much ploughing makes it hove. Were it once well ſwarded, it were better to lop-dreſs the graſs, and keep it in paſture as long as it remains good.

In the ſouthern part of the pariſh, the property of Mr M'Dowal of Garthland, there are 40 acres of wood without, and 13 acres within this policy. But as this gentleman's extenſive plantations are partly in the pariſh of Lochwinnoch, and partly in this pariſh, an account of them was given along with the particulars relative to Lochwinnoch, wherein his houſe is ſituated.

There are ſeveral beautiful and thriving plantations, to the Weſt and North Weſt of the village, belonging to the Meſſrs Barbours, and to Mr Spiers, which we had occaſion to mention already.

brought to its preſent ſituation, exceeds our powers to determine.

All rude nations ſeem to have made uſe of ſome external objects, as incentives to their devotion. This practice was not peculiar to any ſect of religion, but to a particular period of civilization and manners. A huge ſtone, detached from all others, was a conſpicuous object, round which the people could aſſemble; and where they could ſee what was going on, while the prieſts offered ſacrifice, or performed their ſacred rites.

They were careful, alſo, to chooſe ſuch ſituations as might either depreſs the mind with gloom and melancholy, or elevate by the magnificent ſcenery of nature. For this laſt purpoſe, the ſtone we ſpeak of is well ſituated; for it commands a moſt magnificent proſpect, eaſtward of the vale of Clyde, below, and weſtward of the lakes of Lochwinnoch and Kilburnie; while the bare rocks behind add to the grandeur of the ſcene.*

Mines,

* North from Clochodrick, on the other ſide of the hills, ſtands an old narrow caſtle, anciently the reſidence of the Knoxes. About 120 yards South Eaſt of this caſtle, on an elevated rock, which overtops the caſtle, is a green hill, all of forced earth. It is now named *Caſile-hill*. The aſcent from the South and Eaſt, is gradual; from the North and Weſt, it is ſteep and difficult. This earthen hill is of a quadrangular form; the ſides facing the four cardinal points. A trench, dug out of the ſolid rock, ſurrounds its baſe, on the Eaſt and part of the North and South ſides. The Weſt ſide, fronting the old caſtle, reſts on the edge of the ſteep rock. Each ſide of this hill or mound, is about 30 yards at the bottom, and 19 at the top. It is 7 yards in height. The top, though in ſome parts defaced, ſeems to be a hollow ſquare, with a parapet all round it. There has been an entrance into it on the Eaſtern ſide.

From this mount are ſeen five other artificial mounds, three in Houſton and Killallan, and two in Kilmacolm, called *Laws*; owing, it is thought by the people here, to their having been places where juſtice was adminiſtered.

But moſt of theſe Laws are of a conical figure; and though, in feudal times,

Mines, Coal, Limeſtone.—There are ſeven different coal mines in the pariſh, all the property of the Milliken family, except one, the property of Mr Cunningham of Craigends. Lime-ſtone is found connected with the coal at each of theſe mines. Only 4 of them are at preſent wrought, and at 3 of them, no coal is ſold but the ſplint, the reſt being conſumed in burning the lime. But the fourth produces more coal than is conſumed upon the lime. The overplus is ſold; but is not

times, they might have been uſed as places of rendezvous, where chiefs and vaſſals might ſettle their diſputes, yet they appear to have been originally burrows, or monuments erected over the bodies of warriors.

I am inclined to think this mound has been a fort, or out-poſt of the Romans, when ſtationed at Paiſley, and intended to keep the inhabitants of the mountains in check. It commands a full view of the Roman camp at Paiſley, diſtant about 6 miles, and might communicate with it by ſignals.

A little to the Eaſt of the caſtle, there are the veſtiges of an old Romiſh chapel; though nothing remains but the foundation, yet the preſent tenant, Robert Donaldſon, ſays, his father remembered the walls 3 feet high. The floor was of clay, which being dug, contained human bones. The farm is called Prieſton; and the houſe remains the ſame as when the prieſt lived in it.

On the top of Bar-hill, formerly mentioned, in a commanding ſituation, are the remains of an old Daniſh encampment. It conſiſts of a ſemi-circular parapet of looſe ſtones towards the South, and defended, on the North, by the perpendicular baſaltic rocks, already mentioned. The tradition concerning it among the people here, is, that it was an encampment of the celebrated Sir William Wallace: and they ſhew a pinnacle of rock, where they ſay Wallace ſat, while he enticed the Engliſh forces into a bog at the bottom of the rock, where they periſhed. But as our hiſtorians make no mention of this, I am inclined to think the fortification, from its circular form, of Daniſh origin.

There are two other ruinous caſtles, one to the Weſt, anciently the ſeat of the Crawfords; but now demoliſhed almoſt to the foundation. This caſtle, with the lands annexed to it, were called Achinames, which in Gaelic means the *field of butter*. The other, on the North-weſt, on the lands of Penneld, is ſaid to be built by one of the name of Haie; but he being killed in the interim, it was never finiſhed.

not in great requeſt, as coal of a much ſuperior quality is brought from the neighbouring pariſh of Paiſley. This coal is furniſhed at 6d. each cwt.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The church was built, or rather rebuilt, in 1724, and is very commodious. It is ſituated in the village. There is alſo in the village, a houſe of worſhip for perſons of the Relief perſuaſion, and another on the hills, about a mile to the weſt, belonging to the Seceders.

The manſe formerly ſtood in the village, and the glebe in different parcels around. But in 1752, the glebe and manſe were excambiated, at the requeſt of Mr Milliken of Milliken, the patron, who wiſhed to acquire the glebe for the purpoſe of feuing it for building. The manſe now ſtands on a beautiful eminence one-eighth of a mile ſouth of the town, in the centre of the glebe, which is 16½ acres, all encloſed and ſubdivided. The ſtipend is 7 chalders of meal, 200l. Scotch in money, with an augmentation obtained in 1792, of 35l. Sterling. Computing the meal at 1s. per peck, the ſtipend amounts to 141l. 4s. c½d. communion elements included. The patronage of the church is veſted in the family of Milliken. The church formerly belonged to the Abbey of Paiſley.

Remarkable Perſons.—JOHN KNOX, the celebrated Scottiſh reformer, was deſcended from a very ancient family in this pariſh. His anceſtors were originally proprietors of the lands of *Knock*, in the pariſh of Renfrew, from whence the family derived the ſirname of the *Knocks*, or *Knox*. They afterwards obtained the lands of Craigends, and of Ranfurly, both in this pariſh, and reſided long at the old Caſtle of Ranſurly already deſcribed. In proof of what we here aſſert, we refer to Semple's hiſtory of Renfrew-ſhire. This family failed in the

the perſon of Mr Andrew Knox, a clergyman of the moderate party, in the reign of King James the VI. and much eſteemed by men of all parties. On the reſtoration of biſhops, King James tranſlated him to the biſhoprick of the Iſles 1606; and in 1622, to the Epiſcopal ſee of Rapho in Ireland. He died 1632. This biſhop had a ſon, Thomas Knox, who ſucceeded his father in the Epiſcopacy of the Iſles, but died ſoon after his promotion *.

* The Semples of Beltrees, whoſe reſidence was at Thirdpart, now the property of Mr M'Dowall of Garthland, were a very antient family in this pariſh, and deſcended from the noble family of Semple. From this family, ſeveral remarkable perſons have ſprung. As, 1ſt, Sir James Semple, who was a great favourite of James VI. while King of Scotland, and by him ſent ambaſſador to Queen Elizabeth. There is yet extant, a letter, written by King James, dated Sept. 9th, 1599, to Mr James Semple of Belltrees, while ambaſſador at London, ordering him to pay Robert Fowlis, from the firſt of his ſalary as ambaſſador, the ſum of one hundred pounds ſterling, for certain purpoſes, therein mentioned There is alſo a paſſport for his return *from the Court at Richmond, the 23d of February* 1599, ſigned by "Thomas Egerton, George Hunſday, William Knollys, Thomas Buckhurſe, Robert North, Robert Cecyll," the miniſters of Elizabeth. In the year 1601, after he had been made a Knight Bachelor, he was ſent ambaſſador to France, and there is ſtill extant, a paſſport, or order, from *the Court at Richmond, the fourth of Oct.* 1601. to have him conducted with all due reſpect, befitting the dignity of an ambaſſador, through England to Dover, on his way to France, ſigned *Ro. Cecyll.* Theſe papers are ſtill in the poſſeſſion of his deſcendants.

This gentleman poſſeſſed a poetical talent, and was author of *the Packman and the Prieſt*, a Satire on the abſurdities of Popery, the great ſubject which then agitated the minds of men.

2d, Robert Semple, ſon, and ſucceſſor of this Sir James, was author of an Epitaph and Elegy, on Habie Simpſon, Piper of Kilbarchan,

Who on his bags, wore bonie flags,
He made his cheeks as red as crimſon,
And bobbed when he blo'ed the bags.

This piece is too long for inſertion; but it has acquired much local celebrity.

3d, Francis, ſon of Robert, was an adherent of the Stewart Family. He wrote ſeveral panegyrics on James II. while Duke of York and Albany; and

on

Bridges, Roads—The bridges are in good repair, and the roads, though not the very beſt, are better than in any neighbouring pariſh. The roads are moſtly made by private gentlemen, with the aſſiſtance of the ſtatute labour. Any repair they get, is from the ſtatute labour, which is paid in kind, and no commutation allowed, except for the inhabitants of the village.

A toll-road is now making from Paiſley to Newport, Glaſgow, by the bridge of Johnſon, and Kilmacolm, which paſſes through this pariſh. Another is in contemplation, from Paiſley

on the birth of his children; alſo, ſatires upon the Whigs, ſome of which ſtill remain in Manuſcript. He was alſo author of two pieces of conſiderable merit; the firſt intitled, *The baniſhment of Poverty*, and the ſecond, the celebrated Scotch ſong—*She roſe and let me in.*

4. Robert Semple, grandſon of Francis, we mention, as a remarkable inſtance of longevity. He died 1789, aged 108 years. He was the firſt in the nomination of Juſtices of the Peace for Scotland, in the year 1708, being the year after the Union. Towards the cloſe of life, his memory gradually failed him. Two anecdotes of his early life, remained impreſſed upon his memory, after every other circumſtance was forgotten. The firſt was, his being preſent, while the witches were burnt at Paiſley, the laſt deteſtable exhibition of that kind in Scotland, which happened 1697 *. The ſecond was, his having ſeen Peter the Great, Czar of Ruſſia, at Archangel, who, amuſing himſelf with ſome ſea animals in a pond, one of them ſnapped at him, and bit the cock off his hat. This laſt occurrence he continued to repeat to the day of his death, after he had forgotten every other.

Among the remarkable perſons connected with this pariſh, we may mention James Milliken, of Milliken, Eſq. He was the firſt who introduced rural improvements into the pariſh, on an extenſive ſcale. He adorned his eſtate with plantations, arranged with great taſte. He incloſed, drained, fallowed, and reduced his lands into an elegant form. He firſt excited a taſte for good roads in the pariſh, many of which he made at his own expence. In his improvements he ſpared no expence, eſteeming nothing done, while any thing remained undone. He died An. 1776, much lamented by the poor, on account of his extenſive charity.

* Semple's Hiſtory of Renfrewſhire.

Paiſley by Linwood, interſecting the eaſtern part of the pariſh, until it forms a junction with the new toll road from Glaſgow to Greenock. Theſe roads will be of great advantage to the pariſh, and make it the thorough-fare between the ſouthern counties, and the ports of Clyde.

Population.—The numbers, as ſtated in Dr Webſter's liſt in 1755, were, 1485.

ABSTRACT OF THE POPULATION OF KILBARCHAN PARISH,
As taken by actual Survey in the year 1791.

	In the Country,	In the Town,	Total.
Number of Families,	172	391	563
Males,	440	762	1202
Females,	482	822	1304
Under 10,	194	465	659
From 10 to 20,	209	285	494
From 20 to 50,	380	598	978
From 50 to 70,	132	202	334
Above 70,	7	34	41
Servants,	212	15	227
Looms,	34	383	417
Horſes,	242	19	261
Cows,	1277	42	1319
Acres,	6684		6684
Rent,	L. 4542		L. 4542

From this table it appears, that the number of ſouls in the pariſh, when the liſt was taken, was, 2506, viz. 1202 males, and 1304 females. Of theſe, 602 belong to the eſtabliſhed church; there are about 30 Cameronians; all the reſt are of the Burgher, or Relief perſuaſion.

The population in the village, 1740, did not exceed 40 families. Since that time, there is an increaſe of 351 families, which, upon an average, is about 7 families yearly.

In

In the year 1774, when Semple took a liſt of the population for his Hiſtory of Renfrewſhire, there were, in the village,

Families.	Males.	Females.		M. & F.	Ho	Looms.
304	547	637	Total	1184	142	189
In the country there were, . .				1121		
Souls in the Pariſh are, .				2305		

From this ſtatement, it appears, that the population of the country part of the pariſh, has diminiſhed 199, ſince the year 1774; but the population of the village has increaſed 400. Increaſe upon the whole, 201.

From 1774 to 1782, there was an increaſe in the village of 180 looms, and 24 new houſes. The villages had not increaſed much ſince that time, owing to the cotton mills erected within a mile of Kilbarchan, on Mr Houſton's eſtate, in the pariſh of Paiſley, which have attracted the population to that quarter.

The diminution of the country population, and increaſe of the town, may be aſcribed to the immenſe demand for manufacturing labour, which took place ſoon after the concluſion of the American war. Yet the country has not ſuffered in its cultivation. A greater proportion has indeed been thrown into paſture, which, inſtead of being a loſs, is an advantage.

One circumſtance muſt ſtrike every perſon, who peruſes our table of population, that the number of females in the country, exceeds the males by 42, and, in the town, they exceed the males by 60. This may perhaps be accounted for by ſuppoſing that the farmer's keep more female ſervants than males, for the management of their dairies, while their younger ſons are ſent to towns, and trained to buſineſs. In the village, on the other hand, the bleachfields, and cotton manufactories, which have long prevailed, require more females than males.

The

The village is built of excellent freeſtone, procured from a neighbouring quarry of very great depth, on the weſtern declivity of the Bar-hill, already mentioned. One remarkable circumſtance attending this quarry, is, that the freeſtone has coal over it, and whinſtone above the coal, next the ſurface. The northern ſide of the Bar-hill is perpendicular baſalt, incumbent upon coal, which was formerly wrought to a conſiderable extent. This fact ſeems to overturn the prevailing theories of Natural Hiſtory.

Living, Dreſs and Manners.—All claſſes of people live better now than they did formerly. Oatmeal and potatoes make a great part of the food of the lower people. About 20 years ago, tea and butcher's meat were very ſeldom taſted by any of the lower ranks. Now they are more or leſs uſed by people of every deſcription. The people are, in general, ſober and induſtrious. If they indulge in any extravagance, it is chiefly in the article of dreſs; in this they are much more gay and ſplendid than formerly. At the ſame time, they are daily acquiring more politeneſs and urbanity of manners.

Emigration.—There have been no emigrations from the pariſh theſe 14 years; but this year, 1794, 3 families have emigrated to America, and many more are preparing to follow, from the fatal decay of trade, and want of employment.

Wars.—In former wars, a number of tradeſmen were wont to go to ſea, particularly to privateers, where they expected better wages, and were more certain of prize-money, than in the navy. But they ſeldom remained longer than the war laſted. In the preſent war, 55 young men have gone from the village to the army, and 15 to the navy; beſides others from the

the country, as they ſay, *from pure neceſſity*. It is remarkable, that thoſe who formerly went to the ſea ſervice, on their return, generally turned out drunken and diſſipated; thoſe again, who returned from the army, generally proved ſober and induſtrious.

Charitable Societies —There are three charitable ſocieties in Kilbarchan: 1*ſt*, The farmers ſociety, which has accumulated a capital of 85ol. Sterling: 2*d*, The general ſociety, conſiſting of heritors, merchants, and tradeſmen, has accumulated a capital of 400l.: 3*d*, The weavers ſociety, has accumulated little capital, from exceſſive burdens; but has been of very great uſe, and relieved much diſtreſs.

Poor.—The poor, in ſo far as they are not relieved by theſe charitable aſſociations, are ſupported by a voluntary aſſeſſment annually impoſed, added to what ariſes from the ſeſſions funds. Formerly the poor were ſupported by church collections, intereſt of money accumulated, money ariſing from mortcloths, marriages, &c. But, from the increaſe of trade and population, and, conſequently, of the poor, theſe funds proved inadequate. In July 1785, the method of aſſeſſment was recurred to, and was levied as follows: The land paid at the rate of 3d. per Scots of valuation, one half being paid by the landlord, the other by the tenants. This produced 78l. 9s. 3¼d. There was levied upon the houſeholders, in the town and country part of the pariſh 21l. 10s. 8¼d. The ſeſſions funds produced from 10l. to 12l. The amount being from 110l. to 112l. then levied for the relief of the poor. The aſſeſſment has been gradually increaſing, and now amounts to about 140l. a year.

This fund is managed by fifteen perſons, annually choſen on the 1ſt Friday of November; five of whom are heritors,

five

five tenants, and five houſeholders. To theſe the kirk ſeſſion are added. The poor are ſubdivided into claſſes, each claſs being under the inſpection of an overſeer. None can be received upon the poor's liſt, unleſs they make a diſpoſition of their effects, to be ſold after their deceaſe, for the benefit of the poor: Any two overſeers can draw upon the treaſurer, for occaſional relief, either to thoſe upon the liſt, when unforſeen diſtreſſes come upon them, or to thoſe who are not upon the liſt; but whoſe ſituation may require a temporary relief.

LIST OF MARRIAGES AND BAPTISMS.

	Marriages.	*Baptiſms* §.
1781	22	49
82	18	57
83	23	60
84	24	72
85	17	86
86	26	58
87	24	47
88	27	34
89	30	32
90	34	27

Deaths.—The account of deaths has not been accurately kept; only I noticed, that in the year 1790, they were 82; but I dare ſay, more than one third of them came from the towns of Johnſton and Quarrelton.

Agriculture.—In giving an account of the agriculture of this pariſh, we muſt diſtinguiſh between the high and rocky diviſion, and the low and level part, as in each of theſe the practice differs in ſeveral particulars.

§ Since the year 1786, when the Relief Meeting took place, the baptiſms have decreaſed, as very few of that ſociety, or of the burghers, regiſter their children. But from the proportion of baptiſms to marriages, I think their ſhould be, at an average, between 90 and 100 births yearly.

Eaſtern Diviſion Fences.—The Eaſtern, or low part of the pariſh, is moſtly encloſed, in ſome places, with ſtone dykes, but chiefly with hedge and ditch. The thorns are either planted in the face of the earth, thrown from the ditch, or on the top. Another practice prevails here, of building a parapet of ſtone, about three or four feet high, on the edge of their ditch, and then they either plant the thorns perpendicular on the top, or ſtick them in the face of their wall, drawing the beſt of the earth to the roots. The laſt method anſwers very well, and the hedge requires no pailing, or weeding. Theſe fences are either put up by the tenants, who have acquired new leaſes, or by the landlords, when they ſet the farms. It were to be wiſhed, they were at greater pains to clean the ditches, and take off water from the roots of the thorns; and that ſportſmen, and others, who go through the fields, would take the trouble of going round by a gate, and not croſs a hedge, as treſpaſſes of this kind have produced many inſufficient fences, after years of care beſtowed upon them.

Farms.—The medium ſize of farms here is from 40 to 60 acres. There is one farm, occupied by Mr Roger, of 222 acres, all in excellent order.

Rent.—Some ſpots are rented at from 50 to 60 s.; but the medium rent is from 25 to 30 s. per acre It is thought, by perſons of experience, that were the lands out of leaſe, they could bear an addition of 5 s. at an average.

About 50 years ago, the uſual rent of good land was about 5 s. per acre. 30 years ago, it roſe to about 10 s. 20 years ago, it roſe to about 20 s. Yet the tenants are more wealthy, and live much more comfortably now, than at any former period. Theſe facts ſhew, that the riſe of rent has uniformly

uniformly kept pace with the progreſs of manufactures and population. Indeed land is of no value, without inhabitants to cultivate, and conſume the fruits of it.

Rotation.—1ſt, oats; 2d, oats; 3d, potatoes, or barley, with dung. If barley, laid down with graſs ſeeds. After potatoes, generally oats, with graſs ſeeds, or 2 crops of hay, paſtured 3 or 4 years. About one-third of the farm in crop, two-thirds paſture and hay.

It was formerly uſual to interpoſe a crop of beans between the two firſt crops of oats, but the ſeaſons have been ſo wet of late years, that they could not get them ſown early enough in ſpring, or dried in autumn. From this circumſtance, the practice has been generally abandoned. Some farmers have tried wheat; but after their ground was prepared, the exceſſive autumnal rains have either prevented them from ſowing it, or they were obliged to ſow it at a bad time, and it did not thrive.

It were much to be wiſhed, that the proprietors of land would endeavour to introduce a more commodious ſyſtem of cropping. Where the farmers depend chiefly upon one kind of crop, their labour comes upon them all in a hurry, and they are obliged to keep more horſes and ſervants, than if their work were divided by a regular ſucceſſion of objects.

I am apt to think, that the great population centered here by cotton mills, &c. points out the dairy, and fattening for the butcher, as proper objects of cultivation. Were farmers to manage ſo as to have a proportion of cows to calve before winter; or, in place of them, allot a few cattle for winter feeding, they might prepare for them a proportion of cabbages, carrots, turnips, and winter vetches; and, for houſe feeding in ſummer, a patch of red clover ſown with barley, to be cut green, and given to the milch cows. Theſe crops would

come in regular ſucceſſion, and not overburden them with labour at any particular period. By feeding much in the houſe, great quantities of dung would be produced. Though potatoes grow here in perfection, and anſwer well for theſe purpoſes, they never think of giving them to cattle, as they have a ready market at hand for all they can produce. In wet ſeaſons they might plough in wheat and beans, with a light horſe, yoked in a drill plough, when harrows could not be uſed.

Potatoes.—On ſome ſpots round the moſs formerly deſcribed, they raiſe excellent potatoes in narrow lazy beds. They cover the ſets with about eight or ten inches of moſs, dug from the trench early in the ſeaſon. When drought comes on, they ſet fire to the lazy beds, and the aſhes ſerve as manure. In other places, the potatoes are generally planted and dreſſed by the plough in drills.

Manures.—Their dung, accumulated in winter, generally goes to potatoes, or barley. They lime upon ley, at the rate of 3 chalders per acre, valued at 10s each chalder, and immediately plough it in. I ſhould think it much better to lime upon the hay ſtubble, before they turned the ground into paſture. This would yield more than the value of the lime in paſture, and a greater crop when the lime was broken up. Some make compoſts of earth and dung; others make them by frequently ploughing a high head-rig in Summer, into which they put lime, and afterwards lay it on the field. Adjoining to the moſs, they make compoſts of moſs, dung and lime, which are found to be very beneficial for their ſtrong clay ſoil.

Horſes and Ploughing.—The horſes here are of an excellent breed, both for ſtrength and mettle. They are moſtly purchaſed

chaſed in the Lanarkſhire markets, but a few of them are reared in the pariſh. They generally plough with three horſes, ſometimes with two, but always uſe a driver. The land is moſtly formed into ſtraight narrow ridges.

Cows and Dairy.—The cows moſt eſteemed here, are thoſe of a ſmall mouth, head and neck long and ſmall. With reſpect to colour, thoſe ſpotted brown and white are preferred. In the beſt ſeaſon, they give from 8 to 10 pints of milk daily, when well fed. Milch cows are ſuppoſed to produce from 5l. to 8l. yearly. Sweet milk ſells at 2d. per Scots pint; ſkimmed milk at 1 penny; butter milk at ½d. When near a market, they generally make the whole milk into butter, and ſell the butter, with the butter milk, in a freſh ſtate. When diſtant, they make ſweet milk cheeſe or ſkimmed cheeſe, and ſalt the butter for winter ſale. But, where markets are diſtant, grazing for the butcher is eſteemed more profitable than a dairy.

Weſtern Diviſion.—In the high and rocky parts of the pariſh, we ſhall only note the practice where it differs from the lower parts.

They lay dung or lime upon their ley grounds about Martinmas, and plough it in ſpring. They take three or four crops of oats in ſucceſſion, and then let the ground run back into natural paſture. They ſow little or no graſs. Now this is the very worſt of practices. Paſture is the very beſt uſe to which they can turn their lands; yet they take care to exhauſt them before they throw them into paſture. It were better to top-dreſs for the paſture, and ſow it down with graſs. I ſuppoſe, the reaſon why they don't ſow graſs, is, that the ſtones hinder them from cutting the hay. But, were they to ſow down their fields with graſs in a very rich

ſtate,

ſtate, one gathering of the ſtones would ſerve for many years. Even if it were thought too laborious to gather all the ſtones they might admit cattle to paſture in the dry ſeaſon, as ſoon as the graſs was ſufficiently rooted. The ground commonly lies 4 or 5 years in paſture. Potatoes are ſometimes planted in lazy beds, on ſpots here and there among the rocks; ſometimes with the plough; after potatoes, ſometimes barley, ſometimes oats. There are many fields well adapted for turnips, which have never been tried. The lands are moſtly incloſed with rickle ſtone dykes, gathered from the land. The rent cannot be eſtimated by acres, as the land lies in patches among the rocks.

Cows.—The cows in greateſt eſteem here, are a light, active breed, yield about ſix pints of milk daily, in the beſt ſeaſon, and produce from 2l. 10s. to 3l. per annum. The farmers depend chiefly upon rearing of cattle, butter, which they ſalt, and ſkimmed cheeſe. They alſo rear a few horſes of the Lanarkſhire breed.

There are few or no hogs in the pariſh, and few ſheep, except what are kept by gentlemen for their own uſe. Some patches of lint are occaſionally ſown; but chiefly for the private uſe of the farmers.

Mills and Thirlage.—There is, in the pariſh, a lint mill of an excellent conſtruction, and beſt frequented of any in the Weſt of Scotland. There are alſo four corn mills, each of which had thirlages annexed to them. But this barbarous practice is wholly aboliſhed at one, and mitigated at another. At the mill of Cart, the thirlage was bought up by the ſeveral proprietors bound in thirlage, and the intereſt of the purchaſe money charged upon the tenants, at the rate of 6d per acre. Yet, what is ſurpriſing, the mill ſet for nearly the

the former rent. Johnſton mill, the property of the Milliken family, has the eſtate bound in thirlage; but, at renewing the leaſes, the thirlage was rendered more moderate. At the other 2 mills, the thirlage varies from the 12th to the 30th peck. At all, they muſt pay, even if they ſhould ſell their oats unground. All grain but oats is free. It is to be hoped that this barbarous Gothic practice, which produces on the one hand, conſtant complaints of evaſion, on the other, of ſlovenly execution, will be wholly extirpated from Scotland.

Manufactures.—The Meſſrs Barbours firſt eſtabliſhed a candle manufactory in Kilbarchan, which acquired great celebrity: afterwards, a manufactory of linens was attempted by them in the year 1739. In the year 1742, Mr Spiers and others introduced the manufacture of lawns, cambrics, &c. for the Dublin market, which branch ſtill continues, with different variations in the quantity produced. When the Paiſley ſilks came into vogue, a conſiderable proportion was wrought up here. Afterwards, the cotton manufactory almoſt ſuperſeded every other. In the year 1774, Semple, in his Hiſtory of Renfrewſhire, reckoning every weaver of linen to produce 65l. per annum, calculated the manufactures carried on by perſons reſiding in Kilbarchan, at 23,400l. per annum. If we reckon the cottons and other ſtuffs at the ſame rate, in the year 1791, the value manufactured in the pariſh of Kilbarchan, would be 27,105l. This is not all done by people reſiding here, but a conſiderable quantity of muſlins are ſent from Paiſley to be weaved. This year, 1794, all branches of buſineſs are in a very languid ſtate. The only branch that ſtill does a little, is the lawn, but even this is very dull, and the people ſeem much diſpirited.

There are in the village, 3 bleachfields, which employ 30 hands, moſtly women. There are alſo 2 candleworks, and a brewery.

Cotton

Cotton Mills.—At the bridge of Weir, on the north weſt of the pariſh, there is a cotton mill, which contains 2120 ſpindles ready for uſe, and might employ 70 hands if fully occupied. At preſent, from the dullneſs of trade, they only work with 1664 ſpindles, and employ 49 hands, chiefly women and children.

But the moſt ſplendid eſtabliſhment in the cotton ſpinning buſineſs, perhaps in Britain, is the Linwood mill, on the ſouth eaſt part of this pariſh. The building is already finiſhed, except one wing, which yet remains to be added. The length of building already compleated, is 254 feet; the length when finiſhed, will be 338 feet 8 inches; the breadth of the body is 37 feet; ditto, of wings 40 feet. The houſe is ſix ſtoreys with garrets. It already contains 400 glaſs windows, and, when compleated, will contain 540. The depth of fall is 17 feet. The tide makes up to the tail of the wheel; but when interrupted by tail water, they have another wheel, more elevated, which they can put in motion.

Mr Dunlop, the manager, has paid a very laudable attention to the health of the inhabitants, in the conſtruction of this building. For this purpoſe, the roofs of the rooms are high; the machinery is much ſimplified in its conſtruction, can be eaſily cleaned, and occaſions little or no waſte, or particle of cotton to fly about, and a large ſpace is allowed, in proportion to the machinery; of conſequence fewer workers will be crowded into the ſame ſpace. The whole apparatus does not take above three half gills of oil daily: hence no bad ſmell ariſes from the oil. Add to all, that the whole building is ſubdivided by two vaſt ſtair-caſes, which act as ventilators. If equal attention is paid to the inſtruction of the children, I ſhould conſider a work of this ſort as a ſchool, where the children of the poor, otherwiſe a burden upon their

their parents, may be trained to induſtry and virtue,

Number of ſpindles working at preſent, . .	600
Nnmber when the preſent building is furniſhed, .	18,000
Number when the whole plan is compleated, .	25,000
Number of hands at preſent employed, . .	75
Number (beſides tradeſmen) that will be required to occupy whole, . .	1,800

A regular town, upon an elegant plan, is already begun, adjoining to the works, and there are houſes built, ſufficient to accommodate 400 workers. But the late deplorable decay of trade, has thrown a damp upon this, and every other ſcheme of manufacture; and they are proceeding, as ſlowly as poſſible, in furniſhing this extenſive building.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL,

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD, COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. MR ALLAN STEWART.

Name and Situation.

THIS parish derives its name, like some others in Scotland, from the church having been dedicated to St Michael. It is bounded by the parishes of Logierait and Mouline on the West; of Braemar and Crathy on the North; of Glenisla and Alyth on the East; and of Blairgowrie, Kinloch, Cluny, and Caputh, on the South. It comprehends the greater part of Strathardle, the whole of Glenshee, and a district lying at the lower extremity of that glen, on the West side of the river, called Black-water, which gives name to the county through which it passes. Strathardle is about 10 miles long, and from 1 to 2 miles broad, and includes part of the parishes of Mouline, Kirkmichael, Blairgowrie, Bendochy and Kinloch.

Glenshee

Glenſhee is about 7 miles long, and leſs than a mile broad. At the head of this glen are two ſmaller ones, narrow, and about 3 miles long. The diſtrict bordering on the Black-water, is of a form nearly circular, meaſuring ſomewhat more than 2 miles in diameter. Though this pariſh is pretty extenſive, there is no part of it detached. Its figure does not vary much from a parallelogram, being 17 miles long from North to South; and from 6 to 7 miles broad.

Etymologies.—According to tradition, Strathardle was anciently called in Gaelic, Srath na muice brice; *the ſtrath of the ſpotted wild ſow;* which name it is ſaid to have retained till the time of the Daniſh invaſions, when, in a battle fought between the Danes and the Caledonians, at the head of the country, a chief, named Ard-fhuil, *high, or noble blood*, was killed, whoſe grave is ſhown at this day. From him the country got the name of Srath Ard-fhuil, *Strathardle*, In tracing the origin of the name of Glenſhee, the following conjecture is offered. It appears to have been the practice among the Druids, to hold aſſizes in the moſt convenient part of the country, to decide differences and adminiſter juſtice*. The perſons who exerciſed this office were called Sith-dhaoine, or Sithichean, *peace-makers*. A round hill, at the head of the glen, called Sith-dhun, *the hill of peace*, may have been one of the places for holding theſe courts of juſtice; and hence the whole glen may have got its name. Another conjecture is, that Sith-dhun may have been the place of concluding and ratifying a peace, between two contending tribes or clans.

Hills, Lochs, &c.—A hill at the head of Glenſhee, called Beinn-Ghulbhuinn, is diſtinguiſhed by having been the ſcene of

* See Cæſ. Bell. Gall. lib. 6. cap. 13.

of a hunting which proved fatal to Diarmid, one of the Fingalian heroes. Here are ſhown the den of the wild boar that was hunted, a ſpring called Tobar nam Fiann, *the fountain of the Fingalians*; a ſmall lake, called Loch an Tuirc, *the boar's loch*; alſo Diarmid's grave, where he was buried by his comrades*. The higheſt hill in the country is Mount Blair, which

* The eminence where Diarmid was buried, is called Tulach Diarmid, Diarmid's Hill, whence the late proprietor of the ground was called, Fear Tulaich Diarmid, laird of Diarmid's Hill. The ſtory told of Diarmid's death is this: Diarmid and another of the Fingalians, were rivals in love. The lady, who was the object of their paſſion, gave the preference to Diarmid. The rival, who wiſhed for ſome means of taking Diarmid off, propoſed to the Fingalians to ſet a day for hunting a wild boar, which had often annoyed them, hoping that Diarmid's forwardneſs in the chace would expoſe him to deſtruction. Diarmid was warned by his miſtreſs, that ſome evil was intended him; that the hunting was a pretext, and that he ought to avoid it. He gallantly anſwered, that nothing could prevail with him to decline any any enterprize in which his fellows engaged. The hunting took place. The boar was killed by Diarmid's ſpear, and himſelf eſcaped ſafe. His rival, expreſſing his aſtoniſhment at the ſize of the boar, propoſed to Diarmid to meaſure the length of its back with his foot, expecting that Diarmid would be wounded by the venomous briſtles on the boar's back. Diarmid meaſured along the back from the head to the tail, and ſtill remained unhurt, His adverſary, diſappointed, requeſted him to meaſure the boar's back again, proceeding in the contrary direction. Diarmid ſcorned to decline the taſk. The conſequence was what his rival wiſhed. The wounds he received from the boar's briſtles, proved mortal.

Dr Smith, author of Gaelic Antiquities, in a note to the Gaelic edition of the poem on Diarmid's death, mentions a tradition that Diarmid was vulnerable only in the ſole of the foot, and ſuggeſts that this circumſtance is probably a fiction of late invention, as he has reaſon to believe that the oldeſt and pureſt editions of the poem, make no mention of it. If ſo, there ſeems to be a ſtriking ſimilarity between the ſtory of Diarmid and that of Achilles. The circumſtance of Achilles being vulnerable only in the heel, is no where hinted by Homer, and muſt, therefore, as in the ſtory of Diarmid, be the invention

which divides this pariſh from Gleniſla. The only lochs of note, are *Loch Sheſhernich*, and *Loch nan eun*, ſituated pretty high among the hills. Theſe abound in excellent trout. There are one or two medicinal ſprings, which are believed to be of an antiſcorbutic quality.

Climate,

tion of ſome later fabuliſt. In both caſes, the circumſtance tended to leſſen the reputation of thoſe heroes for military proweſs.

Dr Smith places the ſcene of Diarmid's death in a part of the Weſt Highlands, on the authority of the tradition of the country, and of the names of places preſerved in a beautiful Gaelic poem, which narrates the ſtory of Diarmid's death. The opinion of its having happened in Glenſhee, reſts preciſely on the ſame kind of evidence; beſides the tradition of this country, there is a Gaelic poem extant, which relates the fate of Diarmid, with the ſame circumſtances as thoſe mentioned in the poem publiſhed by Dr Smith, and which expreſsly affirms the hunting to have been in the hills of Glenſhee. If the merit of the poetry were to determine the degree of credit due to the bard, as an hiſtorian, there is no doubt that the poem in Dr Smith's collection, muſt be acknowledged the moſt authentic. But if this be reckoned an equivocal teſt of authenticity, it does not well appear how the two diſcordant narratives can be reconciled, nor how the credit due to either of them above the other, may be aſcertained. From ſuch a deſcrepance between the different accounts of the ſame events, a ſceptical enquirer might be led, perhaps, to queſtion the authenticity of both, and pronounce the whole a mere fiction. Such an inference, however, may well be judged raſh and unfounded. The exiſtence of various traditions, reſpecting the ſame ſtory, is a proof that it was once generally believed in many parts of the country. Their agreeing in many ſtriking particulars, is at leaſt a ſtrong preſumption that theſe particulars were true; their diſagreeing in other particulars, only ſhows that the facts were obſcured by the diſtance of time at which they happened. Many cities claimed the honour of giving birth to Homer, and ſupported their reſpective claims by various arguments and allegations. Though their claims were inconſiſtent, and their allegations contradictory, nobody ever thought of inferring thence, that Homer never lived, or had no birth-place, but only that the place of his birth, from the length of time ſince it happened, was become uncertain.

Climate, Soil, Crop.—The country being more elevated than Athole, on the one hand, and Marr on the other, and being in general open and unſheltered, the climate is colder than in either of theſe diſtricts, and more expoſed to the ſeverity of a cold or ſtormy ſeaſon. During nine months of the year, froſts are frequent, and ſometimes fatal to the fruits of the earth. In 1791 and 1792, the crops ſuffered extremely from ſevere froſts, in the beginning of Autumn. The air, however, is pure and favourable to health and longevity. It ia not uncommon to ſee men purſuing their ordinary occupations at 80 or 90 years of age. Within theſe few years, a woman died in the pariſh upwards of 100 years old. Chronical diſtempers are rare. The ſmall pox has been often fatal. Inoculation, though not unknown, is far from being gerally practiſed.

The ſoil on the banks of the Ardle, is thin and dry, having a ſandy bottom, and yields in general light crops. In the higher grounds, it is wet and ſpungy, unfriendly to vegetation, except in dry warm ſeaſons, when it yields a pretty good crop. The ſame deſcription applies to the ſoil of Glenſhee, and of the Black-water diſtrict.

The produce of the ground is ſeldom ſufficient to ſupply the inhabitants. The culture of potatoes is of the greateſt utility, as it is commonly the moſt productive crop. The kinds of grain generally ſown are Cheſhire bear, the common white oats, and a kind called barley oats. Flax, and peaſe, alſo, are grown, but in no great quantities, as the ſoil or climate is unfavourable to them. Field turnips have been lately introduced, and anſwer well, of which the tenants appear to be ſenſible. Some graſs ſeeds have been ſown; but as the ſeaſon for vegetation is ſhort, the farmer can ſeldom cut down more than one full grown crop of graſs. Sheep being allowed to paſture at large in the fields all the time the

corns are off the ground, is a circumſtance very unfavourable to the culture of ſown graſs, which has not as yet been remedied. Oats are ſown in April; potatoes are planted; lint-ſeed and bear, with graſs-ſeeds, ſown in May; turnips in June. Harveſt ſeldom begins ſooner than September. It is commonly the middle, or about the end of October, and ſometimes the middle of November, before it is all gathered in. The greater part of the pariſh is better adapted for paſturage than for tillage; and ſome of the proprietors are accordingly laying ſeveral of their farms under ſheep.

Population, Rental, &c.—In 1755, the number of ſouls was rated at 2689. The population of the pariſh has decreaſed much within theſe 20 years, and continuing to decreaſe, on account of conſiderable tracts of land being converted into ſheep farms, and the inhabitants forced to migrate to other countries.§ The number of ſouls in the pariſh is about 2200. The number of males is to that of females, as 44 is to 50. The

§ Few more intereſting objects can engage the attention of a humane, patriotic, and enlightened Stateſman, than the queſtion, Whether the encreaſe of population in towns, be a full compenſation for its diminution in the country. Is the *ſtrength and ſecurity of the State* augmented? Is the acquiſition of more numbers, and of wealth, an equivalent for the depravation of morals, and the decay of public ſpirit? Is the *ſum of happineſs* in the body of the people encreaſed? Is a town life as favourable as a country life, to the culture of religious affections, and of the ſocial virtues? If not, whether is the greater degree of happineſs found among a people virtuous and religious, though wanting many temporal conveniences and accommodations; or among a people leſs virtuous and religious, but poſſeſſed of better accommodations? If the country ſhould be depopulated, is it eaſy to re-place its inhabitants: or is it true that

> "A bold peaſantry, their country's pride,
> "When once deſtroyed, can never be ſupplied?"
>
> GOLDSMITH.

The average of yearly births for the laſt 8 years, is 50, and of marriages 15. No regiſter has been kept of the burials. Many who do not reſide in the pariſh, have their burial places within it; and many who do, bury elſewhere. The valued rent of the pariſh is 4102l. 13s. 4d. Scots. The real rent may amount nearly to 3000l. Sterling. The rent of lands varies according to the quality of the ſoil and the circumſtances of the farm. Lands that have the privilege of a good hill paſture annexed to them, pay from 20 to 45 ſhillings Sterling of rent *per* acre of arable. Lands that want this privilege, if not incloſed, pay from 12 to 16 ſhillings *per* acre: if incloſed, about 20 ſhillings.

State of Property.—There are 12 proprietors who do not reſide in the pariſh; 24 ſmaller proprietors, moſt of whom reſide in it conſtantly, and farm a part of their own property; and 6 other ſmaller proprietors, called portioners, from their poſſeſſing but ſmall portions of land, which they farm entirely themſelves. The number of farmers in the pariſh is 226. Of theſe, 19 are heritors. A plough-gate, or, as it is called here, a plough of land, contains only from 7 to 8 acres of arable land, excluſive of hill paſture. There are about 200 ſuch plough-gates in tillage, and above 40 wholly in paſturage. About a plough-gate of cultivated land there are often two tenants or families, who poſſeſs the hill paſture belonging to the farm in common, but have each their reſpective ſhares of the arable land, and infield paſture, diſtinct. The ploughs are generally drawn by four ſmall horſes yoked a-breaſt. Where the ground is level and tractable, and the farmer in eaſy circumſtances, the plough is often drawn by three, or ſometimes by two horſes. Many of the tenants ſubſet ſmall portions of their poſſeſſions, ſuch as a garden, or

perhaps

perhaps a ſmall croft to cottagers, or cottars, as they are called. Some of theſe are handy-craftſmen, who ſubſiſt by their trade; others are common labourers, who hire themſelves out for day's wages in the country. The number of tradeſmen is as follows: 10 ſquare wrights: 4 wheel wrights; 5 ſmiths; 4 ſhoemakers; 14 ſhop-keepers; 14 taylors; 40 weavers, including apprentices. Some of theſe have other occupations beſides their trade.

Wages.—The wages are regulated according to the nature of the work, and the time of the year in which it is performed. A day-labourer, from the beginning of March till harveſt, gets 8d. *per* day, beſides victuals; a hay or corn-cutter 1s.; a taylor 6d.; a lint-dreſſer 8d.; a wright 1s. Women hired for ſpinning, get 2d. or 3d., according to their merit. Men ſervants, engaged for a year, get about 6l.; and women from 2l. 10s. to 3l. Sterling.

Live Stock.—Moſt of the tenants depend on the ſale of cattle, for the payment of their rents. The number of ſheep is about 9000. More than a third of theſe are of the black and white faced kind, ſomewhat large in the body, and rough in the wool. The reſt are of the common Scotch kind, ſmaller in ſize than the former, but very hardy. A few of the Cheviot breed have lately been introduced. The black cattle are of the ſmall Highland kind. They feed remarkably well, and, when properly fed on graſs, they prove excellent beef. Few of them, when fed, exceed in weight 20 ſtones of beef. Their number is about 2000. Few horſes are kept, except what are barely ſufficient for cultivating the ground. They are computed at about 800. There are alſo ſome parcels of ſwine, and a few goats.

Fairs.—There are three annual fairs held within the pariſh; one at Kirkmichael, called the Michaelmas market, and two at the ſpittal of Glenſhee. The former is of long ſtanding. It probably took its riſe from the concourſe of people who aſſembled on the day ſacred to St Michael, at a place conſecrated to his memory and worſhip. From coming together, for the purpoſes of devotion, they learned to continue together, for the ſake of tranſacting ſecular affairs, till, by degrees, this laſt object became the chief reaſon, and at length the only reaſon of their aſſembling. Michaelmas came to be a term for ſettling accompts, and other money tranſactions, over all Scotland. Half a century ago, this fair was one of the principal cattle markets in the kingdom, and continued 3 or 4 days, or rather a week together. Of late years, it has been much leſs crowded. There is a weekly market held at Kirkmichael on Fridays, whither the people of the neighbourhood repair, to ſell what yarn they may have ſpun during the week, and to buy their weekly ſupply of tobacco, ſnuff, lamp oil, and other groceries. Shoemakers from Athole, diſpoſe of a great many ſhoes alſo, at this market. It has been remarked, and perhaps with too much reaſon, that this market gives encouragement to idleneſs, and imprudent, not to ſay immoral indulgences, by furniſhing a pretence for frequent viſits to the village. Appointments for paying trifling debts, are commonly made at this market. The creditor and debtor meet. They adjourn to the public houſe. After each has drunk his pot, the debtor finds he is not able to pay his debt. He craves a week's delay. The creditor eaſily agrees to ſo ſhort a term. The appointment is renewed, and the ſame ſcene repeated, perhaps many times, before the debt is paid. Thus both *time* and *money* are needleſsly ſpent, and a habit of idleneſs and of tipling contracted.

Fuel,

Fuel, &c.—The fuel generally uſed is peat and turf. Lime ſtone is plenty, and uſed for manure in different parts of the pariſh; but leſs than would otherwiſe be the caſe, from the expence of procuring peat to burn it. No marle has been found, except lately in one place. It is reſerved by the proprietor for his own uſe. There are 7 licenced retailers of ſpirituous liquors. No licenced diſtillers.

Roads.—The military road from Coupar-Angus to Fort George, paſſes along the Black Water and through Glenſhee. It is kept in repair chiefly by the ſtatute labours of the country. A country road along the courſe of the Ardle is kept in pretty good repair, in the ſame manner.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Poor, &c.—The church was built in 1792. It is finiſhed in a reſpectable ſtyle, and ſufficiently large and commodious for the diſtrict of country in which it ſtands. It coſt about 370l. Sterling, excluſive of carriage, of lime, timber, &c. In Glenſhee is a chapel, where divine ſervice is performed by the miniſter of the pariſh, once in four or five weeks. The glebe conſiſts of four acres of arable land, of indifferent ſoil, and a ſteep ſand bank for paſture. The ſtipend is 1000 merks Scots, or 55l. 11s. 1⅓d. Sterling. James Farquharſon of Invercauld, Eſq; is patron. The funds for ſupporting the poor, conſiſt of a capital of 170l. Sterling, under the management of the kirk-ſeſſion, the weekly collections made at church and occaſional fines. The annual amount of the contributions is at an average 12l. Sterling. The number of poor who receive regular ſupplies from the funds, is 14. It is to be regreted that the funds are too ſmall to ſupply the neceſſities of the poor, without allowing ſuch as are able to go about to beg. Such as confine themſelves within the bounds of the pariſh receive occaſional ſupplies from the funds.

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Schools.—

Schools.—In the parochial ſchool are taught Engliſh, Latin, writing, and arithmetic. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 200 merks Scots. There is one charity ſchool in Glenſhee, endowed with a yearly ſalary by the Society in Scotland for proing Chriſtian Knowledge. At particular times of the year, eſpecially in winter, ſome perſons voluntarily aſſume the office of ſchoolmaſters in the remoter parts of the pariſh, and teach reading of Engliſh and writing.

Language.—The prevailing language in the pariſh is the Gaelic. A dialect of the ancient Scotch, alſo, is underſtood, and currently ſpoken. Theſe two, by a barbarous intermixture, mutually corrupt each other. All the names of places are Gaelic.

Antiquities and Curioſities.—In the middle of a pretty extenſive and elevated heathy moor, ſtands a large heap of ſtones, or cairn, 50 yards in circumference, and about 25 feet in height. The ſtones of which it is compoſed are of various ſizes, but none of them, as far as they are viſible, large; and appear to have been thrown together without order. They are in a good meaſure covered with moſs, and in ſome parts overgrown with weeds. This circumſtance argues the great antiquity of the cairn; for the circumjacent ground being covered with heath, and of a firm mould, a long time muſt have elapſed, before ſo much earth or duſt could have been collected by the wind, and lodged among the ſtones, as to form ſoil for the nouriſhment of plants. Round this cairn are ſcattered, at different diſtances, a great number of ſmaller cairns. They are generally found in groups of eight or ten together. They are all covered more or leſs with moſs or heath. About a furlong to the weſtward of the great cairn are the veſtiges, quite diſtinct, of two concentric circu-

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lar fences of ſtone, the outer circle being about 50 feet, and the inner 32 feet in diameter. There are alſo the veſtiges of ſix, perhaps more, ſingle circular incloſures of ſtone, from 32 to 36 feet in diameter, lying at different diſtances in the neighbourhood of the cairn. Two parallel ſtone fences extend from the eaſt ſide of the cairn, nearly in a ſtraight line, to the ſouthward, upwards of 100 yards. Theſe fences are bounded at both extremities by ſmall cairns, and ſeem to form an avenue or approach to the great cairn of 32 feet in breadth. There can be little doubt that all theſe are reliques of Druidiſm; that the great cairn is one of thoſe at which they celebrated their ſolemn feſtivals in the beginning of ſummer and the beginning of winter,* when they offered ſacrifices, adminiſtered juſtice, &c.; and that the circles and leſſer cairns, muſt have been the ſcenes of ſome other religious rites, of which the memory and knowledge are now loſt. Similar cairns are to be ſeen in the neighbouring pariſhes, and in different parts of the Highlands; but this pariſh has to boaſt of a more uncommon and remarkable monument of Druidical ſuperſtition.

About a mile N. E. from the above mentioned great cairn, on a flat-topped eminence, ſurrounded at ſome diſtance with rocky hills of conſiderable height, and ſteep aſcent, ſtands one of thoſe rocking ſtones which the Druids are ſaid to have employed as a kind of ordeal for detecting guilt in doubtful

* See Smith's Gaelic Antiquities, page 31.; alſo Statiſtical Account, Vol. XI. page 621. The practice of lighting bonfires on the firſt night of winter, accompanied with various ceremonies, ſtill prevails in this and the neighbouring Highland pariſhes. The cuſtom, too, of making a fire in the fields, baking a conſecrated cake, &c. on the 1ſt of May, is not quite worn out.

doubtful caſes. † This ſtone is placed on the plain ſurface of a rock level with the ground. Its ſhape is quadrangular approaching to the figure of a rhombus, of which the greater diagonal is 7 feet, and the leſſer 5 feet. Its mean thickneſs is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Its ſolid contents will therefore be about 51,075 cubical feet. As it is of very hard and ſolid whinſtone, its weight, reckoning the cubical foot at 8 ſtones 3 pounds,† may be reckoned to be 418 ſtone 5 pounds, or within 30 pounds of 3 tons. It touches the rock on which it reſts only in one line, which is in the ſame plane with the leſſer diagonal, and its lower ſurface is convex toward the extremities of the greater diagonal. By preſſing down either of the extreme corners, and withdrawing the preſſure, alternately, a rocking motion is produced, which may be encreaſed

† The creed of the Celts reſpecting theſe rocking or judgment ſtones, is well expreſſed by Mr Maſon.

> ——Behold yon huge
> And unhewn ſphere of living adamant,
> Which, poiſed by magic, reſts its central weight
> On yonder pointed rock; firm as it ſeems,
> Such is its ſtrange and virtuous property,
> It moves obſequious to the gentleſt touch
> Of him whoſe breaſt is pure; but to a traitor
> Tho' even a giant's proweſs nerv'd his arm
> It ſtands as fix'd as Snowdon. CARACTACUS.

It is ſuppoſed, with much appearance of reaſon, that this ordeal, though it appeared in the eyes of the vulgar to be an appeal to the judgment of the Supreme Being, was in fact ſubſervient to the deſigns of the Druidical prieſts who conducted it; and that by ſome expedient, they contrived to make the iſſue of the trial correſpond either to the judgment which they had previouſly formed of the caſe, or to their deſigns regarding the culprit.

† A ſtone of the ſame quality with the rocking ſtone, was gauged and weighed, and found to weigh at the rate of ſtone, 3 lib. the cubic foot.

creaſed ſo much, that the diſtance between their loweſt depreſſion and higheſt elevation is a full foot. When the preſſure is wholly withdrawn, the ſtone will continue to rock, till it has made 26 or more vibrations from one ſide to the other, before it ſettles in its natural horizontal poſition. Both the lower ſide of the ſtone, and the ſurface of the rock on which it reſts, appear to be worn and roughened by mutual friction. There is every reaſon to ſuppoſe, from the form and relative ſituation of the ſurrounding grounds, that this ſtone muſt have been placed in its preſent poſition by the labour of men. It will hardly be thought, therefore, an extravagant degree of credulity, to refer its origin to the ſame period with thoſe other tribunals of a ſimilar conſtruction, mentioned by writers who have treated of the cuſtoms of the ancient Celts. This opinion is however the more confirmed, from finding, in the neighbourhood of this ſtone, a conſiderable number of other Druidical relics. On the north ſide of the ſtone, at the diſtance of 60 yards, on a ſmall eminence, are 2 concentric circles, ſimilar to that already deſcribed, and a ſingle circle adjoining to them on the eaſt ſide. Beyond this, at 37 yards diſtance, on another ſmall eminence, is another pair of concentric circles, with a ſingle one adjoining to them on the eaſt ſide. Beyond theſe, at 45 yards diſtance, is a third pair of concentric circles, with their adjacent circle on the eaſt ſide. Farther on to the north eaſt, at the diſtance of 90 yards, is a ſingle circle, and beſide it on the weſt ſide, two rectangular encloſures of 37 feet by 12; alſo a cairn 23 or 24 yards in circumference, and about 12 feet high in the centre. Several ſmall cairns are ſcattered in the neighbourhood: 120 yards weſt from the rocking ſtone is a pair of concentric circles, with a ſmall ſingle circle beſide them of 7 feet in diameter. All the pairs of concentric circles are of the ſame dimenſions,

the

the inner one being about 32 feet, and the outer about 45 or 46 feet in diameter; and all of them have a breach or door-way four or five feet wide on the ſouth ſide. The ſingle circles are, in general, from 32 to 36 feet in diameter, and have no breach. The veſtiges of all thoſe ſtructures are perfectly diſtinct, and many of the ſtones ſtill retain the erect poſture in which all of them had probably been placed at firſt. Cairns and circles ſimilar to thoſe deſcribed are to be ſeen in other hills of this pariſh, particularly between Strathardle and Glenderby. The elevated ſituation and cold expoſure in which theſe ruins ly, have preſerved them from being ever diſturbed by the plough, which has effaced, and probably deſtroyed ruins of the ſame kind in other places. There are likewiſe ſeveral tall erect ſtones, called here in Gaelic, Crom-leaca, or Clach-ſhleuchda, *ſtones of worſhip*. Some of theſe are 5 and ſome 6 feet above the ground, and may be ſunk a conſiderable way under the ſurface, from their remaining ſo long in the ſame poſition; for a ſuperſtitious regard is paid them by the people, none venturing to remove them, though ſome of them are ſituated in the middle of corn fields.

Manners and Cuſtoms.—The people are humane and hoſpitable to ſtrangers, of a ſpirit ſomewhat independent, but averſe from a military life. The greateſt fault in their general character is, that they are too much diſpoſed to litigation, for which they are noted by their neighbours. Three ſheriff-officers, and a conſtable, reſiding within the pariſh, find abundance of employment. They are rather inclined alſo to be jealous of each other, and ſeem at times more anxious to repel encroachments, than to improve their own poſſeſſions. The younger part of the people are ſhowy in their dreſs, but frugal in their diet. Shooting matches, and rural balls,

balls, are frequent at the holy ſeaſon. Foot ball is a common amuſement with the ſchool boys, who alſo preſerve the cuſtom of cock-fighting on Shrove Tueſday. All the people are of the eſtabliſhed religion, except one or two families of papiſts in Glenſhee.

Diſadvantages.—The pariſh is divided from all the neighbouring diſtricts by hills, moſt of them ſeveral miles broad. It is ſeparated from the market towns, and from the Stormonth, (whence it is ſupplied with meal and corn and other neceſſary articles) by a hill, though not high, of very ſteep aſcent on both ſides. This proves a great bar in the way of carriage. The intercourſe of the people with each other, is in ſome meaſure difficult and dangerous; as over the rapid river which runs through Strathardle, there is no proper bridge from the one end of it to the other. There was formerly a bridge of three arches at the village of Kirkmichael; but two of the arches fell about 40 years ago, and have never ſince been re-built: and the only ſubſtitute for theſe arches, is long planks laid acroſs the river, ſupported by the remaining pillars of the old bridge.

A kind of bar, called a keith, laid acroſs the river at Blairgowrie, by thoſe who are concerned in the ſalmon fiſhery there, effectually prevents the ſalmon from coming up the rivers of Ardle and Shee. This is a grievance which the people think themſelves juſtly entitled to complain of.

The tenants in different parts of the pariſh ſtill perform ſome ſervices to their landlords, ſuch as day's work in hay time and harveſt, or at fuel.

Few of the tenants enjoy leaſes of their farms. Holding their ſmall poſſeſſions by a ſhort and uncertain tenure, they are kept continually in a ſtate of abject dependance on their landlords. It muſt be manifeſt to every obſerver, that the

ſituation in which the peaſantry are thus retained, has a ſtrong tendency to repreſs the exertions of induſtry; to extinguiſh the ardour of patriotiſm, that attachment to his native ſoil, which glows ſpontaneouſly with ſuch warmth in the breaſt of a Highlander; to quench the ſpirit of freedom and independence, and

"Freeze the genial current of the ſoul."

Is it that the landlords are apprehenſive of deriving no benefit to themſelves from granting leaſes; or of their tenants not having money or ſkill, or induſtry, for making improvements? Or, is it, that the tenants are unwilling to bind themſelves for a number of years, to modes of cultivation, with which they are little acquainted? Or is it, that men, on whom wealth and power have conferred one kind of ſuperiority, find, in the exerciſe of that ſuperiority, and in receiving that ſervile dependence of their inferiors, a gratification which they cannot be perſuaded to relinquiſh?

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF REDGORTON

(COUNTY OF PERTH, PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. MR DAVID MONCRIEFF.

Origin of the Name.

THE name of this parish is wrote differently Redgoretown, contracted Redgorton, Rogertown, and Regorton. The first seems to be the most ancient; and, according to vulgar tradition, is derived from the battle of Loncarty, at which time, many of the wounded were brought to the curate's house, which from thence was called Redgoretown, or the town of the red-gore, and afterwards gave that name to the whole parish. Rogertown is derived probably from the name of a family, Rogers, now entirely extinct; the name itself is now become obsolete. The other name Regorton, is Gaelic, and, as I am informed, signifies in that language a field of corn.

Extent.—It is about 6 miles long, reckoning from Craigingall, the Weſtmoſt point, to Safelanding, the Eaſtmoſt, and at a medium near 2 miles broad. There is a ſmall part of the pariſh disjoined from the reſt, which is about 6 miles diſtant from the church, running along the foot of the Grampian Mountains, and interſected by a neighbouring pariſh. The lower part of the pariſh extends itſelf in an irregular figure, running along the rivers Tay and Almond.

It is bounded on the South by the pariſh of Tippermuir, on the Weſt by Methven, on the North by Moneidy and Aughtergaven, and on the Eaſt by Scone.

Situation, Soil, and Air.—The country here is rather hilly, but the high grounds are neither very elevated nor ſteep, but riſe and fall gradually towards the rivers, where the land is flat, and in many places can be watered by the adjacent rivers.

The ſoil is generally light, though in ſome places there is a mixture of clay and black earth; and, where it is drained, and the large muir-ſtones, found here and there, either taken out, or ſunk below the depth of the plough, the land is abundantly fertile.

The ſituation of this pariſh being more elevated than ſome of the neighbouring, the air is pure and healthy. The moſt prevalent diſtemper is the ague, which, however, is ſeldom mortal, and ſeems almoſt confined to the places neareſt the rivers, and to thoſe who are employed in the public works there.

Rivers.—The river Tay runs along the Eaſt ſide of the pariſh, Almond on the South and Weſt, and Shochie and Ordie on the Weſt. All the rivers in this part of the coun-

try

try diſcharge themſelves into the Tay, which is the largeſt river in Scotland; and, when joined by the Earn, below Perth, is ſuppoſed to contain more freſh water than the Thames. There is a ſmall lake in the diſjoined part of this pariſh, remarkable for it's depth in proportion to it's ſurface, which produces large trout of a blackiſh colour, from one to two pound weight, and upwards. The river Tay, in this neighbourhood, abounds with ſalmon, from ſixteen to twenty pound weight, at a medium; ſea, or white trout, from one to four pound; bull trout from one to thirty pounds; a yellow trout from two pounds and downwards, and a few pike and eels. There is alſo to be found here a ſmall ſea trout, called the *Lammas whiting*, from a quarter to half a pound weight, of exquiſite taſte. It is ſo called, from its coming up from the ſea at this ſeaſon. The ſalmon and bull trouts are caught with nets, though there is excellent rod-fiſhing, or angling in Tay, as well as in the other three rivers, though in theſe there are no ſalmon but in the ſpawning ſeaſon. The ſalmon fiſhings let to tackſmen, amount to about 150l. annually. The ſalmon is one of the ſtaples in this country, and is generally ſent to the London market, or up the Mediterranean. When ſold here, they bring in Spring 9d. a pound, and 5d. in Summer; though, till within theſe 30 years, they were ſold at 2d per pound, and were ſo very plentiful, (the export trade being not then known) that in Perth and the neighbourhood, the ſervants made an article at hiring time, that they ſhould not get it above twice a-week.

Antiquities.—It was in this pariſh that the famous battle of Loncarty was fought, at the end of the 10th century, under the reign of Kenneth III. betwixt the Scots and the Danes; which was ſo deciſive, that of the enemy engaged in battle,

battle, according to tradition, thoſe who eſcaped the ſword were drowned in the river, which was then ſwelled by the rains, and overflowed its banks.*

* It was for their gallant behaviour at this memorable battle, that the family of the Hays were enobled, under the name of Hay of Errol, and had for their arms, *argent, three eſcutcheons, gules*, with the yoke and bow inſcribed. The common report is ſupported by the teſtimony of Hector Boetius, and Buchanan, that, on the firſt onſet, our countrymen gave way, and were purſued by the victorious Danes through the adjacent fields. This being obſerved by a farmer of the name of Hay, or Haia, and his two ſons, who were plowing in the adjacent fields, they took the yokes and bows of their ploughs, croſſed the river Tay, and, thus accoutred, having taken a ſtand at a narrow paſs, ſtopped their fugitive countrymen, rallied them, renewed the battle, drove the Danes into the river, and thoſe that were not drowned, were cut to pieces. After this great ſlaughter, the King went with theſe three valiant Heroes in triumphant proceſſion into the town of Perth; and next day holding an aſſembly of the States, at Scone, it was decreed to give the venerable old Champion the choice of the hounds chaſe, or the falcons flight, as a poſſeſſion ſuitable to the honours conferred on him; and, carrying him up to Kinnoul Hills, where the Daniſh camp had lately been, that he might have a proſpect of the fine country lying below, great part of which was to be his inheritance, he made choice of the Falcon's flight. The bird took its flight from the top of one of theſe hills, and it alighted on a ſtone by the river of Tay, a mile to the ſouth of the houſe of Errol, where it ſtands at this day, and is ſtill called the *falcon's, or hawk's ſtone*. All the intermediate lands were given in property to this family, but have ſince been parcelled out to different branches, and have been ſold to others; unleſs that part of the eſtate, which is ſtill held by Hay of Leys, one of the eldeſt cadets of this noble family. The country people ſtill ſhow the ridges of where the brave Hay and his ſon were ploughing when they joined the battle, and they were diſtinguiſhed from the reſt of the field by ſmall ſtripes of graſs, or baulks, on each ſide, which no farmer ever dared to break up till within theſe three years. They ſtill, alſo, ſhow you the narrow paſs, where the Hays rallied their flying countrymen, which is now levelled down. I have ſeen it entire, when it much reſembled the ſmall Roman ſtations, which are to be ſeen in many places of Scotland, though not ſo regular. They point out the *turn again hillocks*, where the Danes began to retreat, and the hollow way, under cover of which the Clans ſurrounded the Danes. I have ſeen a great number

Modern Hiſtory and Improvements.—The modern hiſtory of this pariſh, will appear to the Stateſman, to be much more uſeful than a minute account of its antiquities.

Cromwell

number of tumuli, or burrows, ſcattered over the field of battle, where the dead were buried, not raiſed in any regular order, or in one place, but where ever the ſlain fell in the greateſt numbers; but they are now almoſt levelled with the reſt of the ground. I have ſeen many of them opened, and the light aſhes found there in great quantities, evince the nature of their contents. Some of the bones have been dug out quite entire, particularly a large human ſkull, the jaw-bone and teeth being entire, in the preſence of the late Dr Boſwell, who lodged it in the Edinburgh Muſæum. In theſe, and through the whole field, which may contain near three hundred Scotch acres, there have been found hilts and blades of ſwords, ſpears, and bitts of bridles.—Some of theſe were in the poſſeſſion of the neighbouring gentlemen, and there is a houſe carpenter, who made of them planes, ſaws, and tools of huſbandry. The field of battle, till of late, was grown over with heath and bruſhwood, but is now cultivated, and become a rich field of corn, ſo that, in a literal ſenſe, "the ſwords have been beat into plough ſhares, their ſpears into pruniug hooks, and the deſert land has become a fruitful field." Theſe, and many other circumſtances, too minute to relate, were told, and pointed out to me, with as much enthuſiaſm, eſpecially by an old man of the name of Blair, whoſe anceſtors had been long proprietors in the neighbourhood, as if they had happened in his own time. The only remains of the famous battle now to be ſeen, the laſt of the tumuli being levelled two years ago, are the graves where the Daniſh General and Officers were buried, at the head of which there are large ſtones ſtill ſtanding, and a houſe lately inhabited, called to this day *Denmark*. To confirm the truth of this ancient piece of hiſtory, we have the uninterrupted tradition of the country, the teſtimony of our moſt ancient Hiſtorians, the undoubted marks of a battle, the armorial bearings of the Errol Family, the Bows and the Yokes, as far back as the twelfth century; and could any pieces of the armour be diſcovered, of which there is ſome probability, ſhowing their origin to be Daniſh, it would put the matter beyond all doubt.

Another piece of antiquity not to be omitted, is the continuation of the cauſeway, leading from the Roman camp at Ardoch, which croſſes the Tay at its preſent conflux with the Almond. At this place there are the remains of a Roman ſtation, regularly formed into a ſquare, ſurrounded with a deep

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Cromwell Park.—I ſhall begin at the Weſt end, and proceed regularly towards ths Eaſt. The firſt object deſerving notice

foſſe, which has been for ſome years gradually waſhing away by the overflowing of the Almond. There have been dug up ſeveral earthen urns, filled with human aſhes; particularly a large one, about half an inch in thickneſs, made of a very fine clay of a brown colour, plated on the inſide with braſs, almoſt conſumed, and covered with verdigreeſe, containing about ten Engliſh gallons. Another very curious one diſcovered, was ſmaller than the former, the contents of which were, a few aſhes of oak-wood, and part of a lachrymatory, which was a ſmall glaſs phial, the eighth of an inch in thickneſs, containing about an Engliſh quart and a half; at the bottom of another of theſe was found a plate of lead, weighing about two ſtone weight, with Roman characters inſcribed.

The foundation of a wooden bridge thrown over the Tay at this place ſtill remains. It conſiſts of large oak planks, from ſix to eight inches in diameter, faſtened together by long ſkairs, but coarſely jointed, and ſurrounded with claſps of iron, frequently twiſted. It would ſeem, that ſcrewbolts, and fine made joints, were then unknown. I cauſed one of them to be raiſed ſome years ago, at the requeſt of the late Dr Hope, who aſſured me that the fabric of the wood was not in the leaſt decayed. At the other end, beyond this bridge, to the North Eaſt, there are ſome remains of the continuation of the cauſeway, almoſt as far as Blairgowrie, beyond which there are no traces of this famous military road to be diſcovered. This gives great credit to the report of the battle betwixt Agricola and Galgacus being fought in that neighbourhood. Tacitus informs us, that his father-in-law Agricola met with a heavy ſtroke in the death of his only ſon, an infant, which greatly afflicted him. Afterwards he led his army to the foot of the Grampians, where this battle was fought, and where Agricola, not without much bloodſhed, remained maſter of the field. In this engagement, Aulius Atticus, captain of a cohort, was killed. He was eſteemed by Agricola, and much lamented by him and the army. It is not improbable, that the large ornamented urn contained the aſhes of Agricola's ſon, and that the ſmaller one with the lachrymatory, the aſhes of Atticus, who would be interred with military honours. The preſent courſe of the Almond, though near the military road and ſtation, is about half a mile to the northward from its junction with the Tay in former times. This river anciently had its courſe by Ruthven Caſtle, now Huntingtower, where there is ſtill a ſmall rivulet, known by

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notice is Cromwell Park. This was lately encloſed with a ſtone dyke, and may contain about one hundred and ſixty

 acres

the name of Old Almond. At this place there was a Royal Fort, and a ſmall village called Bartha, which was carried down the river in the night time by a very great inundation. King William the firſt, ſurnamed the Lion, had his youngeſt ſon, John, with his nurſe, and fourteen of his domeſtics, carried down the river and drowned. This happened in the year one thouſand, two hundred and ten; ſo far Buchanan, and his predeceſſor Boetius deſerve credit, and their naration is confirmed by other hiſtorians, as well as by the conſtant tradition. But that the King, about two years afterwards, removed the remains to the preſent ſite of the town of Perth, which he afterwards called Perth, or Perthai, is by no means deſerving of equal credit. That Perth has been overflowed by the waters of the Tay, is certain, but, from the digging for the foundation of ſome houſes lately built, there have been diſcovered paved ſtreets, from three to ten feet deep, ſo that it has probably always ſtood on, or near to its preſent ſituation. This opinion is ſtrengthened by this circumſtance, that the charter granted by King William is only a *nova damus*, or a renewal of a former charter.

There are, in various parts, remains of Druidical places of worſhip, and judgment, particularly at Uver Beuchil, where there are twelve large ſtones ſet on end, and one larger in the middle. At ſome ſmall diſtance, there are other two, the one with nine, and the other with ſeven, and what is peculiar with theſe here and elſewhere, is, that the number is always an odd one.

There are large heaps of ſtones near Pitcairn, called penance cairns, which, according to the tradition of the country, were collected by way of penance in the time of popery. They are in the neighbourhood of a popiſh chapel, which is now in ruins.

About a quarter of a mile below Stanley, where the river Tay is of conſiderable breadth, there is a natural ridge of rocks that runs acroſs the river, almoſt forming an arch, which, at the top, within theſe thirty years, was only eighteen feet wide: but the arches were thrown down of late, in order to build a dam dyke for an inlet of the water to Luncarty Bleachfield. Two ſimilar arches were formed over the river Almond, where they were but of late widened for ſimilar purpoſes. The fabric of theſe is not inferior in point of ſymmetry to the work of the moſt ingenious architect, but greatly ſurpaſs the art of human hands in point of ſtrength.

I ſhall cloſe this account of the antiquities of this pariſh, by obſerving, that in a field, called to this day Cromwell Park, the report is, that the Protector

acres. The proprietor, about fourteen years ago, offered to let the whole for a rent of thirty pounds ſterling; now it is become the ſeat of two large manufactures, a cotton mill, and a print-field, and brings to the proprietor of the land an hundred a-year; but, if we take in the improvement of the adjoining fields, neceſſarily connected with theſe great works, its value can ſcarcely be eſtimated. About twelve years ago, Mr William M'Alpine, from the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, a clergyman's ſon, who had been bred a callico printer, came to view this country, and having beheld with aſtoniſhment the great quantity of freſh water, the numerous falls for working machinery by water, made choice of this ſpot for erecting a cotton mill and print-field. Enlarging his views as he diſcovered more of the advantages of the ſituation of the neighbourhood near Perth, he ſet down very extenſive works for printing on the other ſide of the Tay, in the pariſh of Scone, now called Stormontfield; and ſhowed, in all his operations, an extent of genius, hitherto unknown in this part of the country. But, ſuch is the fatality of all human ſchemes, not content with his views in this country, he unhappily involved himſelf with ſome of the great houſes in Mancheſter, who failed ſome years ago, by the market being overſtocked with cottons, and with them he fell. However, the ſpirit he raiſed in this neighbourhood, caught ſome of the wealthy people in Perth, who hitherto had not obſerved their natural and local advantages. Now a company of Perth merchants carry on here both the ſpinning cotton and printing calicoes. The printing, in the year preceding the ſixth of July, ſeventeen hundred and ninety-one,

tector had a ſmall advanced camp, to check the inroads of the Highlanders into Perth, which afterwards gave the name to this field, which it ſtill retains. In digging the foundation of a cotton mill, which has lately been erected there, ſquare iron ſhot of thirty-two pounds weight were found, which gives credibility to the common report, which has never been doubted.

one, amounted to 198,288 ſquare yards of calicoes and linens, and has ſince varied, more, or leſs, according to the demand. When the cotton mill is finiſhed, it will contain about four thouſand ſpindles, and give employment to near nine hundred hands. There are about one hundred and fifty employed in various branches of the printing buſineſs, beſides their families.

Pitcairn-Green.—Adjoining to theſe, and dependant on them, is the village of Pitcairn-green, which is only in its infancy; but of which Mrs Cowley, in her elegant poem on this riſing village, predicts, that it will one day rival Mancheſter. May her prophecy be ſoon accompliſhed!

Battleby.—Proceeding eaſtward, the next village is Battleby, near where the battle of Loncarty was fought, but as yet there are few houſes built. It is meant for weavers, and to accommodate the Loncarty company.

Loncarty.—About half a mile further on, is Loncarty, where ſtand the works erected by the late Mr William Sandeman. There is a large farm here, and though the ſoil is rather barren, the hand of induſtry has wrought wonders. I have with pleaſure frequently beheld this ingenious man pointing out to ſtrangers a ſmall field containing about ſix acres, which he intended for bleaching thread, and to which he originally deſigned to confine his attention in that branch of buſineſs. But ſcarce was it finiſhed, when his ideas expanded, and for more than thirty years paſt, there have been eighty acres or upwards covered with cloth, which has been whitened and dreſſed either after the Dutch or Iriſh mode, in ſo perfect a manner, that as yet it is unrivalled in great Britain. Mr Sandeman was very lucky in adopting a ſkil-

ful and attentive partner, Mr Hector Turnbull, who with great ſucceſs conducted the operative part of this work. Five hundred thouſand ſquare yards, at a medium, are bleached annually; and though both theſe gentlemen are now dead, their ſons and deſcendants conduct matters in ſuch a maſterly way, that the buſineſs is rather increaſing for theſe two years paſt. Beſides linens of various deſcriptions, they have now begun to bleach muſlins. This company ſpins cotton by jeanies, conſtructed after the moſt approved plan; the carding and roving are performed by water. They employ about a thouſand ſpindles. They made their own ſoap and candles till of late. They refine their old lees, and from them make aſhes. It would ſwell this narration too much, to deſcribe minutely the various and extenſive machinery, the canals, and ſprings of water, conducted at very conſiderable expence to keep the whole in motion. I ſhall only add, that ſo far from being as yet complete, when they either obtain a new leaſe, or a feu, from the proprietor, which is now in agitation, their works will probably be greatly enlarged, and other new branches of manufacture introduced, as they have ſeveral water falls yet unoccupied. There are more than three hundred employed here, beſides their families.

All the manufactures I have taken notice of, are erected on the eſtate of Colonel Graham of Balgowan, who has three fourths of the whole pariſh. This gentleman, for ſome time paſt, has given conſiderable attention to improving his lands, has planted with great taſte many thouſands of firs, and all manner of foreſt wood; covered with trees the little eminences in different places; run ſlips of planting for miles along the different farms, and twixt the different encloſures; built fences with ditches and quicks; and where ſtones could be got, has made ſnap dykes, which form an immediate fence. So that from being heath and uncultivated land,

his

his extenſive eſtate has become almoſt a garden: and however brilliant his ſervice to his country has been, in raiſing for Government two battalions of ſoldiers, his patriotiſm, in improving ſo much waſte land, is a more eſſential ſervice, and will continue when the brilliancy of his martial exploits will be forgotten.

Stanley.—After paſſing Loncarty and Mr Graham's property, we come next to the eſtate of Nairn, belonging to the Duke of Athol, where the improvements are not leſs rapid and worthy of notice. The moſt remarkable object here is the cotton mill of Stanley, which employs about 2000 ſpindles; and beſides this, there is now erecting a mill for ſpinning flax; but as the ſite of both theſe are in the pariſh of Aughtergavin, I ſhall only here take notice, that a ſmall rivulet running through the village, divides the two pariſhes, and when the whole plan is completed, there will be more than the half of it in this, beſides the whole of their preſent farm. In that part of the village belonging to Redgorton, there are at preſent about three hundred ſouls.

As to the improvements of land, what is remarkable, is this circumſtance, that about three or four years ago, two thirds were heath, and now they are fertile fields of corn, wheat, and graſs. The two farms moſt improved, and which more immediately catch the eye of the traveller, are thoſe poſſeſſed by Mr James Stobie, land ſurveyer, and Mr Charles Stewart, on each of which there are erected houſes and offices in a taſtey ſtile.

Beſides the public works already mentioned, there is one corn mill, one oil ditto, one flour ditto, and one barley ditto, belonging to Lord Methven, at the mills of Pitcairn. In other places, there are two corn mills, belonging to Colonel Graham.

In

In the whole of this pariſh, three fourths of which were within theſe few years heath and ſwamps, there are little more than 300 acres of muir, the reſt being under tillage, or covered with trees. In the lower part of the pariſh there are 3289 acres.

Population.—In the year 1755 by Dr Webſter's computation, the numbers were 1074. There muſt have been a miſtake here: for in the year 1763, when the preſent incumbent was ſettled, by an accurate ſurvey, the number of ſouls amounted to little more than 600. In the year 1772, they amounted to 1700 and odds, and now to 2123, of which 507 are under 10 years of age. But as ſome of the manufactures are in a ſtate of infancy, and as there are not yet houſes built within the pariſh ſufficient to accomodate thoſe employed therein, who are obliged to lodge in the neighbouring pariſhes, the preſent numbers are but an imperfect ſketch of the hands employed in the various branches of trade. Houſes are continually building; ſo that, in a few years, the numbers of this pariſh will probably be doubled; particularly at the cotton works in Cromwell Park, where at preſent two floors only are filled with machinery; but before Whitſunday next, the whole will be completed, which will bring an increaſe of 400 or 500 inhabitants.

As the regiſter of births and burials is not accurately kept; as poor people in many caſes omit entering their names in the regiſter, to avoid the trifling expence of regiſtration, and ſome bury the dead without the aſſiſtance of the ſexton, the account of either cannot be exact: but from the moſt authentic documents that can be collected, the annual births, for ſome time paſt, at a medium, amount to ſomewhere betwixt 80 and 100, the burials betwixt 20 and 30, and the marriages about 18.

There

There are about 30 weavers, but their number will ſoon increaſe; three ſmithies, and two maſter houſe carpenters, beſides thoſe belonging to the public works; there are ſeven public houſes, but three would be perfectly ſufficient for every uſeful purpoſe. There are no reſiding heritors, neither are there here any phyſicians, lawyers, or attornies. There are 14 farms, of which 10 are the property of Colonel Graham. Beſides theſe, are many ſmall poſſeſſions, having attached to them from one to ten acres. There ſeems to be a deſign formed, and already carried into execution for about two miles, to connect theſe ſmall pendicles and the various villages; ſo that within a few years, the whole length of the pariſh, which is about ſix miles, will appear as one connected village. There are no oxen uſed there, either for plowing or the draught; and as the common plough is generally drawn by two horſes, the number of black cattle reared here is but ſmall, and generally ſold at the age of two or three years. There is not a man or woman that has either hand or limb without employment.

Productions—The crops raiſed here are wheat, rye, barley, oats, peaſe, turnips, flax, potatoes, and graſs-ſeeds of various kinds; the one half of the farms being generally in graſs. They export ſome wheat and rye, large quantities of barley, ſome young cattle, and conſiderable quantities of ſlates. They import ſome of the larger kind of horſes, and great quantities of oats and oat meal. There are two ſmall pits of ſhell-marle, and the rivers Almond and Shockie are lined with rock marle, of a reddiſh colour. They generally lay 50 bolls of ſhell-marle on the acre, but four times that quantity of rock marle; the former loſes it virtue within five years, while the other continues to operate for fifteen, and ſeems fully to compenſate for the extra expence in digging and carriage.

In

In the lower part of the parish, there are 2,439 acres arable, 250 on natural pasture, 300 planted, and nearly as much in heath. There is a measurement of the whole parish.

Miscellanous Observations.—Advantages.—From the local situation of this parish, it is both healthy, and capable of great improvements, from there being water falls at many places yet unoccupied. The sick from Perth, which is almost situated as low as the surface of the river, come here to breathe a purer air, and to recover health. The disciples of the late Mr John Glass, who was the father and founder of the independents in Scotland, can attest the truth of this. They find Loncarty a place both chearful and nourishing; from which the wearied seldom go without refreshment, or the hungry without being fed. The work people, employed in the various manufactures, are distinguished from their neighbours by the cleanliness and neatness of their dress, particularly the females, who, upon this account, are generally married very young. There is a sprightliness and vivacity in their manners, which is very engaging; and on all convivial occasions, especially at their weddings, as they are generally taught to dance, they display a gaiety and order, which is seldom found in other places. The bounds of the parish do not confine this humour, but it has diffused itself through the whole country; and the proprietors of those works who reside in Perth, have felt its influence. In place of travelling in carts, and being jaded on hacks, many of the manufacturers have their own horses for riding, and give an airing to their wives and children, in genteel carriges. The gentlemen and ladies there, are dressed with the same elegance that is observed in other places, and their balls and assemblies are no less brilliant. A circumstance deserving notice, is this, that about thirty years

ago,

ago, there were only three or four chaiſes in Perth to be let for hire, and now there are ſixteen; and theſe muſt be beſpoke ſeveral days before they are needed, otherwiſe the intended jaunt muſt be poſtponed. This increaſe cannot be altogether imputed to ſtrangers who paſs through Perth as a thorough-fare, but alſo to the great increaſe of the manufactures, which ſupply not only the neceſſaries, but alſo the elegancies of life. The attention to decorum has extended itſelf to the public worſhip of the Deity, where, beſides the Pſalms of David, the paraphraſes lately recommended by the General Aſſembly, are ſung in various parts, with ſome hymns and anthems; ſo that the muſic in this church is not excelled but by few in this kingdom. At the celebration of the great Chriſtian feſtival, the Sacrament of the Supper, though the church ſcarcely contains the communicants, there is no field or tent preaching, as in ſome other places, ſo derogatory from the ſolemnity of this inſtitution.

Diſadvantages.—However, on the whole, it muſt be acknowledged, that the elevated and unequal ſurface of the greater part of the lands, render it wet and ſpungy, and the large whin ſtones found detached in different places, make it difficult to labour with the plough. But the one can be removed by drains, which can eaſily be filled with ſmall ſtones, found every where in abundance; and the other, either by digging, blowing, or by ſinking them below the level of the plough. If the tenants have no leiſure for theſe operations, there are undertakers here, who will execute the work either by day wages or per acre. It is an impediment to the building here, that there is no free-ſtone in the pariſh; but this can be found in the neighbourhood, particularly near the confines of the pariſh of Methven. When

they build with whin-ſtone, either in time of rain or in thaw after froſt, the houſes become damp by the ſtones ſweating, or becoming moiſt; a fault which only can be remedied by lathing the walls with wood, which is the caſe with the manſe. There are many clay pits from which they make excellent bricks.

The groſs rental of the whole pariſh, amounts nearly to one thouſand and ſeven hundred pounds, including the fiſhings. But this conveys but an imperfect idea of what the yearly rental will ſoon be. For the farm of Loncarty, which contains about five hundred acres, rents only at eighty guineas, and there are other farms in a ſimilar ſituation. The Duke of Athol's tacks have been lately ſet for twenty two years, but the moſt of Colonel Graham's are nearly expired. The detached part of the pariſh, which runs along the Grampians, is not remarkable for any thing but its blue ſlate quarries, which, though neither ſo large nor ſo thin as the Eaſdale ſlates, are very durable. There are two kinds, a light and dark blue; the laſt is generally preferred.

There is no other church than the eſtabliſhed one; and the various ſects of ſeceders, burgers, relief and independents, do not amout to more than a twentieth part of the pariſh. The manſe and church were built within theſe twenty years; and though both are more elegant than the ordinary ones, yet they are both too ſmall. The ſtipend, eſtimating the victual at the uſual converſion, is ſcarce eighty pounds; it is probable, however, it will ſoon be augmented. There were originally three chapels depending on the Abbacy of Scone, with a glebe annexed to each, but were ſometime after the Reformation erected into one pariſh, which afterwards took its name from the centrical one, Redgorton. Two of the glebes are contiguous to the preſent

ſent manſe, and altogether may meaſure about twelve acres. The Viſcout Stormont, now Earl of Mansfield, is patron.

The preſent incumbent was ſettled in 1763. His immediate predeceſſor was George Fraſer, now miniſter at Moneidy, who ſucceeded to George Meek, whoſe predeceſſor was George Blaky, who was the firſt miniſter ſettled after the Revolution, and ſucceeded —— Achterlouny, who carried off all the public records in his time, as well as thoſe that were more ancient; and ſince, no account of the ancient poor's funds has ever been recovered.

The heritors of this pariſh, are, the Duke of Athol, Lord Methven, Colonel Graham of Balgowan, and Mr Drummond of Logiealmond, none of whom reſide.

The funds for maintaining the poor are ſmall; they ariſe chiefly from ſeat rents in the church, the weekly collections, and a ſmall aſſeſſment of ten or fifteen pounds yearly, the one half paid by the heritors, the other by the pariſhioners. The poor here ſeldom exceed eight or ten in number; and a ſum not exceeding thirty pounds is ſufficient for their ſupport, as well as for defraying all the expences of the ſeſſion clerk, &c. The poor get from two to ſix ſhillings monthly, and, before winter, a few coals and cloaths when neceſſary. From half of the collections, which the Seſſion is allowed to diſpoſe of at pleaſure; the money from the mortcloths, and the fines, the poor children, who are not on the pariſh liſt, are educated, get books and cloaths. When any extraordinary calamity falls out, there is a collection made for the purpoſe, which is generally liberal. There have been no beggars or travelling poor here for theſe thirty years, ever ſince the preſent incumbent was ſettled. There is one parochial ſchool; the ſalary is no more than one hundred merks Scots; the number of ſcholars is from fifty to one hundred. Beſides this, there are two private ſchools, one at Stanley, the other at Cromwell Park. There are

three public roads which paſs through this pariſh, and very near the manſe: the great road from Perth to Dunkeld, which is a turnpike, that from Dunkeld to Balgowan, Stirling, &c; and the third from Perth to the Weſt Highlands through Glenalmond. About twenty years ago, the annual wages of a man ſervant, were from four to five pounds, now from ſeven to ten; and of a woman-ſervant, from thirty to forty ſhillings, now three or four pounds. A day-labourer then thought himſelf well paid with eight pence, now he demands one ſhilling, and can ſcarce be hired at any rate. The people in this pariſh, are very induſtrious, unleſs it be ſtrangers, on their firſt coming from diſtant parts, who ſoon acquire the decent manners of this country. Conſiderable attention is paid to the morals of the people at the public works, particularly at Loncarty, where the manufactures have been eſtabliſhed for forty years. When the young folks of either ſex, are ſuſpected of too much intimacy, the young man is called before his maſter; and if he refuſes to marry the laſs he profeſſes to love, he is immediately diſmiſſed from the work; but if he marries, which is generally the caſe, he gets a houſe and garden, and a ſmall compliment. The only feuel made uſe of here is coal, which they either bring from Perth, or from the pits. If the laſt is the caſe, they ſet off with their carriages about midnight, and arrive at home the next evening in the twilight.

General Obſervations.—I ſhall conclude this hiſtory with a few general obſervations reſpecting the police of the country, and the improvement of the livings of the clergy in Scotland.

If the gentry could be induced to attend the worſhip of the eſtabliſhed church; if the churches were rendered more comfortable, and the roads and avenues leading thereunto,

were

were kept decent and dry, public worſhip would be more generally attended, the collections for the poor would be increaſed, aſſeſſments rendered unneceſſary in moſt country pariſhes, the gentlemen would thereby become more patriotic, and their influence greatly enlarged. However lightly they may think of the preſent aſſeſſments for the maintenance of the poor, which will every day increaſe, if no method ſimilar to the above is adopted, they will ſoon become as burdenſome as the poor's rates in England; which will conſequently lower the value of their lands.

If the Legiſlature would enlarge the glebes, and in place of fix, allocate to the clergy twenty or thirty acres of land, it would be both advantageous to the incumbent and uſeful to the whole country, by ſetting to public view a field well cultivated, and that at no greater expence than could be afforded by the ordinary farmer. But till this can be obtained, might not the heritors accomodate their miniſters with a few acres at the ſame rate that they would demand from others, without charging, as a few do, an extra rent on account of the convenience, &c ?

To obtain favour in theſe reſpects to the clergy of this church, would it not be an inducement, that the preſent incumbents would pay a little more attention to what land they already poſſeſs, and join with the *utile* ſome degree of elegance; as enlarging their gardens, and beſtowing ſome pains on their cultivation, and, where the ſituation of the manſe permits, have a ſmall lawn and ſhrubbery around the houſe. It would be no great expence to plant an hundred fruit trees or more, which in a few years would become profitable. I ſpeak not from theory, but from my own experience. I know a neighbour, who, by enlarging his garden, has got a plot for onions which yields him from five to ten

pounds

pounds yearly, and that without any other expence than ploughing and harrowing, without the aid of the ſpade. Another ſells apples to the amount of ten pounds and upwards; a third garden roots and gooſeberries to the ſame amount. Why ſhould not the practice be general?

NUMBER

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF KIRKMABRECK.

(STEWARTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, AND SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.)

By ALEX. MACLEAN, *Esq;*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

KIRKMABRECK, or more properly the church in the brake, is exceedingly deſcriptive of the place in which the church formerly ſtood; for as brake ſignifies furze, bramble, thorns, heath, fern, &c. ſo, not only the particular place in which the church ſtood*, but alſo many other places in the pariſh, are incumbered with thoſe ſubſtances. This pariſh, which includes part of the ancient pariſh of Kirkdale, is 8 miles in length, from North to South, and about 4 miles in breadth from Eaſt to Weſt. Bounded by the pariſh of Minnigaff on the

* The church was removed to the place where it now ſtnods at Creetown, about 150 years go; the people ſtill continue to bury at the old church.

the North, Girthon on the Eaſt, Anwoth on the South, and the rivers Cree and Wigton Bay, on the Weſt.

Surface, Soil, and Produce.—The country in general has rather a mountainous appearance, riſing gradually from the ſhore the whole length of the pariſh; yet the interior part is, in many places, interſected with rivulets, valleys, and low-land, which, by the induſtry of the inhabitants, and being in the vicinity of ſuch inexhauſtable treaſures of ſea-ſhells, have been rendered very fertile, either for producing crops of grain, or for paſturage. The lands on the banks of the river Cree, (which forms Wigton Bay, and is the weſtern boundary the whole length of the pariſh) is of a ſuperior quality, partly of a clay, and partly of a gravelly ſoil, and, for either tillage or graſſing, is equal to any land in the South of Scotland. The country all along the Bay has a moſt delightful appearance, the great military road running along the coaſt between Gatehouſe of Fleet, and Newton-Douglaſs, is one of the moſt pleaſant ſtages in Scotland, the whole being diverſified with woods, gentlemen's ſeats, and beautiful incloſures, hills gently riſing on the one hand, the Bay on the other, with a full view of the town, and great part of the ſhire of Wigton on the oppoſite ſide of the Bay, and the Iſle of Man, lying out in St George's Channel; ſo that, for variety of objects, ſo well fitted to pleaſe and amuſe the fancy, or to elevate and expand the mind, ſuch a proſpect is ſeldom to be met with. The mountainous parts are partly green and partly covered with heath, or heather, with a mixture of graſs and herbage, that feeds both ſheep and black cattle tolerably well. Theſe ſheep, which are of the black faced kind, and of the ſmall breed, are generally eſteemed excellent mutton, and when come to age, the wedders generally weigh

from

from 8 to 10lb. per quarter, their wool generally brings from 8 to 10s. per ſtone, 26 lib. Engliſh to the ſtone. They are all bred upon the land, and ſold off when they come to age, in regular rotation. There are alſo a few of the large breed graſs'd upon the low land, worth from 18 to 25s. Ster. The black cattle are all of the true Galloway breed, and a great part of them not inferior to any in the country*; when they are come to age, they generally go to the Engliſh markets. The horſes are moſtly all of the draught kind, for the purpoſe of farming, only a few kept for the ſaddle. There are alſo a few goats, but that kind of ſtock are not numerous, the whole ſtock of the pariſh ſtand thus:

Sheep of the ſmall breed, - -	7,500
Ditto of the large breed, - -	300
Black cattle, - - -	1,600
Horſes, - - -	200
Goats, - - - -	500

There are alſo hogs and poultry in abundance, for the uſe of the inhabitants. This part of the country alſo yields a plentiful ſource of amuſement to the ſportſman, being well ſtocked with grouſe, black game, partridge, hares, and woodcock in the ſeaſon. The black game, however, have of late years been ſcarce, and appears to be rather upon the decline.

Agriculture, &c.—Thirty years ago there was no kind of grain exported from this pariſh, but, on the contrary, importations was ſome times neceſſary for the ſupport of the inhabitants. Since that period there is an increaſe of population of about 400 ſouls, and now there is a conſiderable quantity of oats, bear, barley, and potatoes, exported annually. There is generally between 900 and 1000 acres in tillage

* It is common to ſell two years old beaſts at ſix pounds or ſix guineas.

lage, two thirds of which may be ſown with oats, and the remainder with bear, barley, potatoes, and a few acres in turnip. The principal manure uſed for improving land is ſea ſhells, of which there is an almoſt inexhauſtable quantity, not only within the high water mark on this ſide of Wigton bay, but alſo in the dry land, ſeveral hundred yards from the ſhore, particularly in the holms of Caſſencarie, the property of Alexander Muir M'Kenzie Eſq; where they are in beds from four to ten feet deep of the fineſt ſhells imaginable, without almoſt any mixture of ſand. As there cannot remain a doubt but that theſe ſhells have been thrown together and left there by the tide, ſo from theſe and other foſſile marine productions, found both on this and the other ſide of the bay, it is evident, that the tide has flowed 15 or 16 feet higher on this coaſt, at that period, than it doth at the preſent. Theſe ſhells are generally ſold by the agents of Mr M'Kenzie at 5d per tun, 25 tuns of which is ſufficient for an acre of land, and proves a cheap and excellent manure to this part of the country, and is conſidered much preferable to either lime or marle. But the advantages of this valuable treaſure of ſhells is not confined to this part of the country alone, but extends round 50 or 60 miles of a coaſt as far as the mull of Galloway, where they are ſold as high as 3s. 6d. per tun. Many thouſand tuns of theſe ſhells are carried off annually, by a number of veſſels, from 20 to 60 tuns burthen, which are conſtantly employed when the weather will permit, in carrying them all round the coaſt, and ſome times even to the Iſle of Man. Theſe ſhells have been uſed with great advantage for the improvement of barren heathy land, in ſo much, that many hundreds of acres in this pariſh, originally not worth more than 2s. per acre, have been made worth from 10s. to 15s. per acre. Yet this, like every other advantage that is eaſily attained, is not

duly

duly prized or improven, for there are ſtill upwards of 1000 acres of land in the pariſh, which, from both ſoil and climate, is highly capable of cultivation, at preſent lying in a ſtate of nature, covered with heath, and almoſt good for nothing. The fault here reſts almoſt wholly with the landlords, who in that reſpect are in a great meaſure blind to their own intereſt; for where the means of improvement is got at ſo cheap a rate, and the diſtance not great to carry it, a little calculation might ſerve to demonſtrate, that on nothing could they lay out their money to ſo much advantage; but where a tenant has only a leaſe for nineteen years, and perhaps his encouragement not great otherwiſe, it cannot be expected that he ſhould lay out much money in the encloſing and cultivation of barren land*. From the above hint, it is not intended to throw any imputation of ſloth or inactivity upon either landlord or tenant, (but only to ſhow that a great deal more might ſtill be done;) for there are ſeveral farms which now pay five times as much rent as they did thirty years ago, and the tenants ſtill able to live much better now than they did then. There are in the pariſh 76 carts, ſix of which are kept for hire, and the reſt for the purpoſes of farming; and 63 plows, ſome of the Engliſh, and ſome of the old

* The writer of the above having a good deal of experience in the improvement of barren heathy land, would recommend the following plan where ſuch land has a moſſy ſurface, and of a very ſtiff benty ſoil. Inſtead of fallowing, which is the common practice, and which is attended with a great deal of labour and expence, plow up the land in winter or ſpring; the ſummer following give it a ſlight harrowing, to prevent the manure falling down between the furrows, after which ſpread the manure upon it, and ſo let it ly for at leaſt one year, or, if the ſoil is very ſtiff, two years, before you put a plough in it. You will then find, that the ſurface is quite rotten, and that the land is fit for a crop of oats, turnips, &c.; and that by giving it time to ly till the ſurface rot, it does more than even fallowing could do to ſuch land, and the expence nothing.

Scotch kind; and where the land has been cultivated, they are moſtly drawn by two horſes.

Population.—In Dr Webſter's liſt in 1755, the numbers were rated at 858. In the year 1764, the whole population amounted to 680 ſouls, of which the Ferry-town of Cree (now Creetown) then contained 104. As the country part of the pariſh has altered very little in point of population, ſince that period, it will be neceſſary to ſhow the increaſe that has been in Creetown at all the different periods ſince that time.

	Families.	*Under 10 Yrs of age*	*Above 10 Yrs of age*	*Total.*	*Births.*	*Marriag.*	*Deaths.*
In 1764, Creetown contained	34	20	84	104	4	0	1
In 1774, ditto . .	120	73	294	367	11	2	3
In 1784, ditto . .	145	88	354	442	15	3	6
From the 1ſt November 1793 to ditto 1794	183	142	409	551	19	6	23 ¶
In 1794, the whole pariſh pariſh contains . .	289	249	839	1088	38	9	27

Cauſes of Population.—The increaſe of population, not only in this place, but alſo in many other places in Scotland, is principally owing to theſe three following cauſes:

1. To the beneficial effects of inoculation for the ſmall-pox, by which the lives of numbers of children are preſerved; and, general as the practice is become, yet, ſtill there are many of theſe little innocents, that fall victims to the inattention, ſtupidity, and ſuperſtition of their parents, who are ſo wedded to their ancient prejudices, that rather than part with them, they will conſign over half-a-dozen fine children to the ravages of this terrible diſorder, or, perhaps, to the gloomy manſions of the tomb.

2. To

¶ Of the 23 children that died in Creetown laſt year, 12 died of the ſmall-pox.

2. To the improvement of waſte lands, by which numbers are employed and maintained.

3. To the recently eſtabliſhed branches of manufactures. By the firſt, life is preſerved, and by the two laſt, emigration is prevented.

Air and Climate.—The beſt proof of purity of the air and goodneſs of the climate, is the good ſtate of health generally enjoyed by the inhabitants; they being ſeldom ſubject to agues, fevers, conſumptions, or ſuch diſorders as proceed from a corrupted atmoſphere. The rheumatiſm is the only diſorder that ſeems to gain ground, and moſt generally complained of. Though there is a great deal of rain that falls here, yet the air is conſidered dry and healthy, owing to the water being ſuddenly carried off by the rapidity of the rivulets or burns, which immediately convey it again to the ſea, there being no ſwamps or marſhy ground in this part of the country.

General State of the Pariſh.—The ancient valuation of the pariſh, as it ſtands in the ceſs books of the county, is 3199l. 10 s. 8d. Scots. The real rent or preſent value of the land is 2,750 l. Sterling. The number of heritors is fifteen, of whom three only reſide in the pariſh. John M'Culloch, Eſq; of Barholm, (one of the reſiding heritors,) is joint patron with the King. Dr John Inglis, the preſent incumbent is a married man, and has two children, a ſon and a daughter, and has been ſettled fourteen years. The former ſtipend was ſixty pounds Sterling, and four pounds for communion elements, but by an augmentation of victual ſtipend, obtained in the year 1792, the preſent living is worth a hundred guineas per annum, independent of the glebe and manſe, which is worth 25 l. more, and is placed in a de-

lightful

lightful ſituation on the ſide of the bay, about a mile and a half below Creetown. The church and manſe are both in a pretty good ſtate of repair. There are very few diſſenters here, only three ſeceders and two cameronians in the whole pariſh; and as a proof of the health and good morals of the people, and what probably contributes in ſome meaſure to both, is, that there is neither phyſician, ſurgeon, lawyer, nor attorney in the whole pariſh. The poor's funds generally amount to about 35 l. per annum, which, when judiciouſly applied, ſo effectually relieves the wants of thoſe depending upon the public charity, (which ſeldom exceed ten in number,) that there has not been one inſtance of a native of this pariſh going out of it as a ſtrolling beggar, for theſe thirty years paſt. The ſchoolmaſter's ſallary is a hundred pound Scots, independent of the ſchool wages; but beſides the public ſchool, there are ſeveral private ſchools in the pariſh.

Price of Labour.—Wages here are generally high. Maſons and joiners have from 1 s. 8d. to 2 s. per day, without victuals. Taylors and ſhoemakers, from 8d. to 10d. with victuals. An experienced man-ſervant, from 8 l. to 9 l. per annum. The wages of women ſervants, from 3 l. to 4l. and the other kinds of work much the ſame in proportion.

Antiquities.—The moſt memorable place of antiquity is called Cairn-holy or the Holy Cairn, from a tumulus or heap of ſtones, (as tradition informs us,) raiſed over the grave of King Galdus. Several years ago, a great many of the ſtones were carried away for the purpoſe of building houſes and dykes, when there were diſcovered large ſtones placed together in form of a cheſt or coffin; but the roof ſtone being of ſuch prodigous magnitude, it has never been removed to ſee what it contains. This memorable tomb ſtands in the centre,

centre, between two different places, at about a hundred yards diſtance from it, where a great number of human bodies have been buried, as appears from the number of ſtones placed upon one end in form of grave ſtones. We are told by ſeveral of the Scottiſh writers, that Corbredus Galdus, the twenty firſt king of the Scots, (a valiant and good king,) was the firſt of that nation who dared to advance his enſigns againſt the Romans, who, under Petilius Cerealis, had ſubdued the Brigantes*, and ſoon after proceeded to attempt the conqueſt of this country, under Julius Agricola, who, having landed upon this coaſt, deſtroyed all the maritime places, and afterwards reduced the Iſle of Man; after which, he returned, and after many a bloody battle with the Scots and Picts, about the year A. D. 82, he ſubdued the whole of the kingdom South of the Tay. Hiſtory alſo informs us, that one of theſe battles was fought at the river Cree, (which ſtill retains its ancient name,) wherein the Scots were overthrown, but no mention made of the ſlaughter of their king; on the contrary, we are told by Buchanan, that this ſame King Galdus died a natural death, after a glorious reign of thirty five years. We are alſo informed of another battle fought on the river Cree, about the year A. D. 310, wherein the Picts joined the Romans under Maximus their general, againſt the Scots, under their king Eugenius, but wherein the Scots were again overthrown. But in vain do we develope the hiſtory of theſe times; owing to the ambitious policy of Edward the 1ſt of England, a veil is thrown over them which can never be removed. There is alſo a different account concerning this place, which ſeems to be founded on hiſtory, and which deſerves

* Brigantes, the ancient inhabitants of Yorkſhire, Lancaſhire, Durham, Weſtmoreland and Cumberland.

deſerves attention. About the year of our Lord 1150, it is ſaid there was a battle fought between the Engliſh and Scots, on Glenquicken Moor, wherein the Scots were defeated and their General killed, and that the Biſhop of Whithorn being along with him in the engagement, immediately aſſumed the command; but his troops being defeated, immediately fled towards the ſhore to their boats, but being overtaken by the enemy at Cairnholy, about half a mile from the ſhore, the biſhop, with many other gentlemen, was killed, and was buried here, and that from this circumſtance it was called the Holy Cairn, the biſhop being a holy man. Certain it is, that on the very place where the battle is ſaid to have been fought, there is a large tumulus which was opened about 15 years ago (the ſtones being carried away for the purpoſe of building dykes) when there was diſcovered a ſtone coffin, or ſtones placed together in form of a coffin, wherein was a human ſkeleton, the ſcull and the great bones almoſt entire, and greatly above the ordinary ſize; alſo an urn, containing ſome aſhes, and an earthen pitcher: the tumulus is called Cairnywanie.* At a ſmall diſtance from the above, there is a Druidical temple, or a Daniſh encampment, but, being left to the uncertainty of conjecture, ſhall not hazard an opinion; there are alſo ſeveral other tumuli in the pariſh, that have never been opened. There are alſo four ſquare towers with battlements, which ſeem to have been intended for defence: they are all placed on the banks of the Cree.

Mineral

* There is a little rivulet or burn that runs through the place where the battle is ſaid to have been fought, that ſtill retains the name of the Engliſhman's Burn,

Mineral Springs.—There are ſeveral mineral ſprings, all of which have been beneficial in ſome caſes; one, however, on the lands of Pible, which ſeems to be of the chalybeate kind, ſeems particularly adapted for remedying weakneſſes and complaints in the ſtomach, and has been applied to by ſome individuals, with great ſucceſs.

Fuel.—The principal article of fuel is peat, of which there are plenty of the very beſt quality; alſo in many places of the pariſh, there is whins and bruſhwood, which poor people gather for fuel; and as there are no coal but what is imported from other places, it is not much uſed here.

Price of Proviſions.—Beef, mutton, and lamb, generally ſell for 2½d. or 3d. per lib.; oat meal from 20d to 2s.; butter 6d. per lib.; a fat gooſe 2s; a hen 8d.; eggs 3d. per dozen.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—This pariſh is famous for granite ſtone; as a proof of which, Kirkdalehouſe, built by the late Sir Samuel Hannay, of Mochrum, Bart. is well worthy of the attention of travellers. It is a large modern building, the out-ſide wholly of the moſt beautiful granite, and wrought off to ſuch perfection, as is ſaid not to be equalled in Britain. Admiral Stewart alſo got all the principal ſtones here for Glaſſerton houſe, which he carried acroſs the Bay in boats, at conſiderable expence. And the Biſhop of Derry, on ſeeing the houſe of Sir Samuel Hannay, a few years ago, was ſo much charmed with the ſtone, that he immediately contracted with the ſuperintendent of that work, for building the ſpires of two churches in his dioceſe, which were all to be executed with this ſtone; accordingly the ſtone was all prepared here, and afterwards carried over to Ireland, and the work

executed much to his Lordship's satisfaction, though at great expence. The highest mountain in this parish, or perhaps in the South of Scotland, viz. Cairnsmoor, is one entire mass of granite, the altitude of which has never been ascertained, but which may probably be between 3000 and 4000 feet above the level of the river Cree. This mountain is also famous as a receptacle for foxes, which often spread death and destruction far and wide among the surrounding flocks. There are also appearances of lead mines in several places of the parish, but which have not yet been attempted with success.

A Description of Creetown and Wigton Bay.—Creetown, (formerly called Ferry Town of Cree, from the ferry or passage boat constantly kept at that place) has advanced rapidly within these 30 years, as shown in the table of population, and was lately erected into a burgh of barony, by the interest of the proprietor John M'Culloch, Esq; of Barholm, is beautifully situated on Wigton Bay, and in the vicinity of a plentiful country; of late there has been introduced some branches of cotton spinning, by which about thirty people are daily employed; there is also a pretty extensive tann work, and also a mill for making shot lead; but the greatest part of the men follow a sea-faring life, several of whom, both in the present and former wars, have served in the navy. There are a considerable number of vessels belonging to this port, of from 20 to 60 tons burthen, several of which is employed in carrying shells, and others in the coasting trade; indeed, its advantages as a sea port may one day be the means of making it an opulent place. The inhabitants in general, though charitable and humane, yet are too much addicted to the vices with which such places stand chargeable.

Wigton Bay, as I mentioned before, is formed by the river Cree falling into St George's Channel, and is navigable for about

about 15 miles. It is about 3 miles broad, for about 6 miles from its entrance, and then gradually diminiſhes as it extends into the country, and divides the ſhire of Wigton from the Stewarty of Kirkcudbright. There is good anchorage in ſeveral places of the Bay, but in particular a little below Creetoun (the only town in the pariſh) to which a ſhip of 500 tons may come and ride in ſafety: it has a kind of ſoft blue clay bottom, and makes a very ſafe harbour. The fiſheries, though not very conſiderable, are yet worth mentioning; in the Spring and Summer months, there are a good many ſalmon taken, and in the Harveſt and Winter, there are a conſiderable quantity of whiting, cod, and flownders got, by means of what the people call coops, or large creels, ſo placed in the water that the fiſh run into them as the tide ebbs, and are taken out at low water; ſo that with theſe, and a few ſhell fiſh, which is alſo got in the Bay, this part of the country is generally well ſupplied. There is alſo a conſiderable quantity of ſea weed got upon the ſhore, (which is for the moſt part flat and ſandy) which by ſome is made into kelp, and by others uſed for manure. Much more might have been ſaid of the advantages of this as a maritime place, had an abler pen been employed to deſcribe them.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF BEDRULE.

By the Rev. WILLIAM BROWN, *Minister of that Pariſh.*

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE pariſh of Bedrule is ſituated in the centre of the county of Roxburgh, in the preſbytery of Jedburgh, and ſynod of Merſe and Tiviotdale; and is in length from North to South, upwards of four miles, and in breadth from Eaſt to Weſt between two and three. It is bounded by the pariſh of Jedburgh on the Eaſt, by Abbotrule (now annexed to Hobkirk and Southdean, but formerly a pendicle of Bedrule) on the South, by Hobkirk and Cavers, from which it is, for the moſt part, divided by the Rule on the Weſt; and by Minto and Ancrum on the North-Weſt and North, from which it is ſeparated by the Tiviot. It is ſomewhat of an oval figure, and conſiſts, at preſent, of nearly an equal quantity of arable, paſture, and muir-land. The ſoil is, in general, as good as is to be met with in moſt grounds of the above deſcription:

And,

and, as the ſoil, ſo the ſurface and climate are unequal, which, indeed, is generally the caſe over the county, by the ſudden tranſitions from hill to dale. The lands towards the Rule and the Tiviot, are, therefore, more deep, warm, and fertile. In thoſe towards the hill called the Dunian *, the ſoil becomes more light, thin, and barren; the air keen and penetrating: yet, in regard to the ſoil, there happens to be a remarkable exception, for, on the ſame range of hill to the weſtward, oppoſite the village of Bedrule, there is an uncommonly fine and deep ſoil; and in the above grounds, where the ſoil is in general remarkably deep, there is alſo found limeſtone, and different ſtrata of clay marle. A good deal of the land in that part of the pariſh is at preſent rather *ſpouty*. But, as it is a gentle declivity from the ſummit of the hill to the banks of the river, it might be the more eaſily rendered dry by judicious draining.

Proprietors and Tenants.—There are three great, and five leſs conſiderable proprietors in the pariſh, two of whom uſually reſide. There are nearly the ſame number of tenants, who all manage their farms according to the modern practice of huſbandry; and one of them, Mr Brown, the tenant of Newton, a farm the property of Thomas Elliot Ogilvie, Eſq; of Cheſters, has, in the courſe of a few years, ſhewn how much may be done by improvement in this pariſh, both for the advantage of the tenant, and the patrimonial intereſt of the proprietor. Mr Bell younger of Mainſlaws, and the tenant of Rewcaſtle, both in this pariſh, appear to be following

* The Dunian is wholly in the pariſh of Bedrule; but owing perhaps to part of it having been for ſome time poſſeſſed by the tenant of an adjoining farm in the pariſh of Jedburgh, the author of the Statiſtical account thereof has been led to ſuppoſe, it was partly ſituated in that pariſh.

lowing his laudable example, and, we hope, will likewiſe acquire, thereby, conſiderable gain to themſelves, and merit, as all ſuch moſt deſervedly do, the grateful thanks of their country.

Population.—The return to Dr Webſter in 1755, was 297 ſouls. The number of inhabitants at preſent, (1793) is about 250 ‖. Of theſe there are 127 males, and 132 females. Under 10 years of age about 69. From 10 to 20 about 50. From 20 to 50 about 105. From 50 to 70 about 28. From 70 to 80 ſix. From 80 to 90 one.

Weavers 6; taylors 3; wrights 2; gardeners 2: blackſmiths 2; one of whom not only accommodates the village of Bedrule, in that line, but, notwithſtanding his local diſadvantages of diſtance from materials, and eſpecially from coal, alſo employs conſtantly a number of hands in the manufactory of nails, whereby this part of the country has been, for ſome time, abundantly and well ſupplied with that uſeful article; and the neceſſity of importing it, as was formerly the caſe, thereby prevented, money kept in the country, and people employed at home, who otherwiſe would probably have been obliged to travel to a diſtance in ſearch of their bread; male ſervants 44; female do. (including a number of women who are chiefly employed in what is called *out-work*, as hoeing the turnip, making the hay, reaping the harveſt, removing the corn from the ſtack to the barn, &c.) 48; journeymen nailers,

‖ It may be proper here alſo to inform the reader, that the inhabitants of Spittal, Toner, Dykes, and Faſtcaſtle, in the pariſh of Cavers; and Doveſhaugh, Doveſhaugh-brae head, Wells, Weſt-lees, Billerwell, and Birch-hill, in the pariſh of Hobkirk, are much nearer the church of Bedrule, than their own pariſh churches; as alſo thoſe of Fodderlee, Fodderlee-bank head, and Fodderlee-birks, (which are ſituated in the pariſh of Abbotrule, formerly a pendicle of Bedrule,) now united to Hobkirk.

hailers, &c. 9; poor receiving ſupply *in* the pariſh 7; *out* of the pariſh 4.

Live Stock.—There are in the pariſh, of work and ſaddle horſes, 55; black cattle 200; of theſe, above a ſcore are annually fed for the butcher, beſides a number of ſheep and young ſtock, moſt of which are brought into the pariſh in the winter ſeaſon, from the Highlands, where they are grazed in ſummer, it having now become a general practice, for the ſame tenant to occupy farms in both the high and low part of the country, with that particular view; ſheep 100 ſcore, moſtly of the Cheviot breed; a flock of the common goats of this country, of above a dozen, and alſo a few of the Weſt India kind, which here breed and thrive well; ſwine 40; carts 18; ploughs 18; 2 horſes are commonly put to one plough, and Mr Brown ploughs a good deal with oxen, 2 alſo going in one plough, and without a driver, the ſame as horſes.

Crops and manure.—There are ſown annually in the pariſh about 350 bolls oats; 50 bolls barley; 15 wheat; 30 peaſe; 20 potatoes; and of late a few acres of tares, at Newton, which are mown green, and given to the horſes. There have been uſually ſown of late years, about 100 acres turnip; and nearly the ſame quantity in artificial graſſes. There is alſo uſually about the ſame quantity in what is called *naked fallow*. Lime is the manure chiefly uſed here in the improvement of land, notwithſtanding the diſtance from which it muſt be brought, and conſequently the expence attending it.

Mills, &c.—There is a corn mill and a bleachfield in the pariſh, both upon the Rule, and at a ſhort diſtance from the village

village of Bedrule. There was alſo formerly a corn mill on the Tiviot, near Newton, the ſite of which, in conſequence of alterations occaſioned by floods in the courſe of that river, within theſe 40 years, is now ſcarcely diſcernible. Two orchards: One dovecot; but there happens alſo to be three very near in the neighbourhood.

Rooks.—The crops ſuffer leſs from the beautiful and uſeful bird the pigeon, than from the crow or rook, which ſeems to increaſe in number with improvement in agriculture, and which, as the pigeon, not only devours vaſt quantities of grain, but alſo deſtroys the potatoe and turnip, and the moſt hearty and luxuriant roots of the artificial graſſes; all which, if not ſo injured, ſeem to thrive well in this part of the country. Might it not be proper, therefore, eſpecially for the Board of Agriculture, *at leaſt to recommend* the obſervance of an old law, paſſed in the reign of our James I. reſpecting theſe very deſtructive birds? For though, when kept in due bounds, they are believed to be, upon the whole, rather uſeful than hurtful, by alſo devouring ſlugs and grubs, &c. more concealed enemies of the fruits of the earth; yet, from their preſent aſtoniſhing numbers, and their ſeeming yearly more and more to increaſe, there certainly never were ſtronger reaſons, than at preſent, in this part of the country, for the enforcement of that law, at leaſt, till their numbers be again rendered moderate. Indeed, did ſuch an act not already exiſt, the reaſons for it have here become of late ſo ſtrong and urgent, as to give good ground for the enactment of a law to that effect. As the act is ſhort, and may not be generally known, we deem it proper here to inſert it.

James 1ſt, Parliament 1ſt, c. 19. "Of bigging of ruikes in trees." "*Item*, For thy that men conſidderis that ruikes biggand

" biggand in kirks zairdes, orchardes, or trees, dois greate " ſkaith upon cornes: It is ordained, that they that ſik trees " perteinis to, lette them to big, and ſuffer on na wiſe that " their birdes flie away. And quhair it be tainted that they " big, and the birdes be flowin, and the neſt be funden in " the trees at *Beltane*, the trees ſal be fairfaulted to the King, " (bot gif they be redeemed fra him, throw them that they " firſt perteined to,) and hewin downe, and five ſchillings " to the Kingis unlaw."

Rent.—The *valued rent* is 3475l. 13s. 4d. Scots. Of the *real rent*, one tenant pays about 370l. Sterling, another above 200l. Sterling, another about 200l. Sterling: Two ſmall farms, together with certain lands, poſſeſſed by tenants whoſe farms, in the pariſhes of Jedburgh, Ancrum, and Cavers, adjoin thereto, may be rated at 130l. Sterling. All the other lands in the pariſh are in the natural poſſeſſion of the proprietors.

Villages.—There were anciently four *villages* in the pariſh, which are now much decayed, and the number of houſes greatly diminiſhed, viz. Bedrule to the Weſt, Newton to the North-weſt, Rewcaſtle to the North-eaſt, and Fulton to the South-weſt, from the centre of the pariſh.

Bedrule.—The *origin of the name* of *Bedrule*, (by the people uſually pronounced *Bed de Rule*) is uncertain. What ſeems moſt probable is, that is ſignifies the *ſeat* or *reſting place* of *Rule*, or *Regulus*, probably the tutelar Saint of the pariſh. But whether the Saint, or the ancient family of *Rule (de Rule)*, gave name to the river, that village and other places upon its banks; (for beſides Bedrule there are in the neighbourhood the town O'Rule, Hallrule, and Abbotrule) or whether the

river derived its name from the family of Rule, or from St Rule, is uncertain; or, perhaps, from the rapidity of the ſtream (for its ſtream is very rapid) it ſignifies *Roul, (Roll)* as in ſome old papers it is alſo written. Whether any of theſe be the true derivation is doubtful. But, it is moſt certain, that the chief of the family of *Turnbull*, a branch of the very ancient family of Rule, had his principal reſidence at Bedrule Caſtle, in ancient times, a ſtrong hold, pleaſantly ſituated behind the church, on the bank of the river; a ſituation equally remarkable for proſpect, for ſafety, and for beauty; from the ſite of which (for the caſtle itſelf was demoliſhed ſome time ago) though its elevation above the bed of the river be not very great, are ſeen diſtinctly, to the North-weſt, the moſt elevated tops of ſome of the hills by Ettrick and Yarrow, and the Eildons by Melroſe Abbey; the Reid Swyre to the South-Eaſt, the ſource of the Reid and the Jed taking different directions, the Reid mixing with the waters of Tyne, and falling into the ſea at Newcaſtle; the Jed, with thoſe of the Tiviot and Tweed, which reach the ſea at Berwick; and South-weſtward, the ſame frontier tract from whence the Liddel derives its ſource, which, after uniting with the Ewes and the Eſk, falls into the Solway Firth, a branch of the Iriſh Sea. The view is more confined towards the Eaſt and the Weſt, yet the tops of the Dunian and Ruberslaw * hills in the neighbourhood, were ſituations moſt ſuitable in martial times, by the lighting of fires, for giving the alarm to the dependents and friends of the family, either for the purpoſe of defence or attack, on the ſudden approach of an enemy.

Newton.

* Height of the Dunian from the level of the ſea, - 1031 feet.
——— Ruberslaw - - - 1419

Newton—Was anciently the property of a family of the ſurname of Ker, who appear to have been cadets of Fernihirſt. There was alſo a houſe of ſtrength there, now likewiſe demoliſhed; but the beautiful avenues of venerable trees ſtill remaining, beſpeak to the paſſing traveller ſomething of the conſequence and taſte of its former inhabitants.

Rewcaſtle—Situated upon a more elevated ground, than either Bedrule or Newton, is conſidered by ſome as a place of great antiquity. Indeed, it is ſaid, however unlikely from its preſent appearance, that the Courts of Juſtice were originally held there, and afterwards removed to Jedburgh. The origin of the name, and whether it has been derived from proprietors of the ſurname of Rewcaſtle, or whether *it* may have given the ſurname to that family, is uncertain. Be that as it may, both ſurname and place are certainly of conſiderable antiquity.

Fulton—Has now ſcarcely any veſtiges of its ancient conſequence, except ſome remains of its tower, which are ſtill ſtanding, and ſometimes uſed by the tenant as a *bught* for his ſheep. The well known ſurname Fulton, correſponds to the name of this place; but we do not adventure to conjecture, whether there have been any connection between the one and the other; for we have been able, as yet, to trace leſs of its hiſtory, even by tradition, than any of the former.

Encampments.—There are plain veſtiges of a regular encampment, on an elevated ground, almoſt at an equal diſtance between Bedrule and Newton. From its figure, which is ſtill diſtinct, it appears to have been Britiſh. There

is another, at the diſtance of about half a mile to the eaſtward, which, from its ſquare figure, ſeems to have been Roman. They are both but of ſmall ſize, and occupy an area nearly of the ſame extent. The former is ſurrounded by a mound of earth, the latter by a mound and foſſe.

Minerals.—There is great appearance of coal in the lands of Bedrule; and though the proprietor made lately an attempt to diſcover it, and was, for an individual, at conſiderable expence in the ſearch, and though there were certainly ſome thin ſeams found, yet, in the iſſue, he was not ſo ſucceſsful as his laudable perſeverance moſt juſtly merited; not owing, as is ſtill thought, by any means to the uncertainty of the ſymptoms, but to the great deepneſs of the main ſeam.

Indeed, an attempt of that nature, eſpecially in a diſtrict where coal has not as yet been diſcovered, certainly ought rather to be undertaken upon ſuitable conditions, by a ſociety, than attempted by an individual, however patriotic or liberal his ſpirit, unleſs his fortune be vaſt indeed. Nor, at any rate, ought the experiment to be committed to the management of obſcure or unſkilful people, or confined to a ſhort ſpace of time, or the limits of one eſtate or pariſh; but, after moſt careful examination, according to the advice of ſcientific men, of well known ability and character, the moſt likely ſpot in a diſtrict ought to be pitched upon, and wherever the probable trial is made, moſt ſeriouſly perſevered in. Such a ſcheme would be truly patriotic, and probably, in the iſſue, become no leſs gainful than honourable to the undertakers, and of unſpeakable advantage to the proprietor of the lands where there happened to be found ſo great a treaſure, and would be an univerſal bleſſing to this otherwiſe naturally rich and happy country.

There

There is abundance of free-ſtone in the pariſh, of different kinds, red and white, both of excellent quality. Mainſlaws quarry not only ſupplies Jedburgh and the neighbouring country, but ſtone from thence is alſo tranſported to the town of Hawick, at about ſeven miles diſtance, and ſometimes a conſiderable way beyond it.

Roads and Bridges.—A branch of the great road from London to Edinburgh paſſes through the South part of the pariſh. The great road between Berwick and Carliſle directs its courſe through the North part the whole breadth of the pariſh. This road, the whole way acroſs the iſland, is remarkable for variety and beauty, particularly where it paſſes through this pariſh and neighbourhood. Indeed, every where, it is preſenting the traveller with ſcenes, delightful, new and intereſting. One while he has an extenſive proſpect of a rich and improved country, moſt of it in as high a ſtate of cultivation as perhaps it is capable of, thereby, at the ſame time, diſplaying the ſkill and induſtry of its proſperous inhabitants; the ſecurity, wealth, and freedom of the ſubject; the happy effects of the arts of peace, under the protection of law and good government; and in that very country, in thoſe very fields, which formerly were filled, in conſequence of the jarring intereſts, diſputes, and quarrels of two high-ſpirited and warlike nations, with deſolation, carnage, and blood; by the happy union of which, particularly in this tract of country, *the ſword is beat into the plough-ſhare, the ſpear into the pruning-hook.* Another while, as he proceeds onward, and the vale becomes more contracted; the hill and the dale; the rock and the ſtream, here and there preſent themſelves, and the well-laid out plantation, at a diſtance, and the near coppice of natural wood, ſkirting the banks, and hanging over the margin of the ſtream—

theſe

theſe, with their various inhabitants, and ſtill more diverſified by other amuſing and intereſting objects, form together, ſucceſſive groups of the moſt various and pleaſing of rural ſcenery. Nor will the reader be ſurprized at this deſcription, when he is informed, that this delightful road, directing its courſe by the pleaſant towns of Coldſtream, Kelſo, Hawick, Langholm, and Longtown, conducts the traveller often upon the banks, almoſt always in view, of the charming rivers, the Tweed, the Tiviot, the Ewes, and the Eſk, whoſe paſtoral ſtreams, render ſo delightful the moſt beautiful part of the Arcadia of Scotland. A branch of the ſame road, leading by Jedburgh, was lately made through this pariſh, by which a mail paſſes three times a week. The ſtatute labour is here commuted, and the money thereby raiſed uſually laid out on making and repairing the roads in the pariſh.

There are two bridges in the pariſh, both acroſs the Rule, one near the village of Spittal, on the great road before mentioned, between Berwick and Carliſle, conſiſting of two arches; the other conſiſting of one large arch, on the road from Hawick by Bedrule to Jedburgh.

Hills.—The Dunian merits particelar notice, not ſo much from its own height or magnitude, as from the remarkable ſituation upon which it ſtands; and, though rather ſmall of itſelf, and diminiſhing in its appearance, the nearer one approaches it, yet, from its peculiar ſituation, it is almoſt every where ſeen from beyond where the waters begin to deſcend to the weſtern ſhores of the iſland, to the utmoſt boundary of the eaſtern coaſt. As, in ancient times, churches and croſſes were uſually erected in the moſt conſpicuous and elevated ſituations, to reach the eye of the pious traveller, or perſons in diſtreſs, ſo, this remarkable hill, (*Dunian*, by thoſe acquainted with the Gaelic language, being ſaid to ſignify

nify *John's Hill*) might, for the ſame reaſon, be dedicated to the beloved diſciple of Chriſt, that it might become the medium of ſafety and comfort to the numberleſs votaries of the favourite diſciple of Jeſus, in jeopardy either by land or by water, eſpecially when their eye could not catch in its view a ſacred fane or ſalutary crucifix. For, notwithſtanding the ſmallneſs of its ſize; owing, not ſo much to its elevated, as ſtrikingly obvious ſituation, it is plainly ſeen almoſt every where in all directions, particularly over that vaſt tract of country, comprehending what were formerly the middle and eaſtern marches, or frontiers of the two kingdoms, extending from the weſtern extremity of the Reidſwyre, to the German ocean, and overlooking, in a ſingularly commanding proſpect, an immenſe extent of claſſical ground, equally celebrated in poetry and ſong, as it is memorable in the page of martial hiſtory. For, the proſpect from this remarkable eminence, different from that from the ſite of Bedrule caſtle, is almoſt alike open to all quarters. Near, and eaſtward below, the ſpectator views, as it were in a baſon, the town of Jedburgh, much diſtinguiſhed by the venerable ruins of its formerly rich and magnificent abbey, anciently the peaceful and happy retreat of Monks of the order of St. Auguſtin. At a greater diſtance, and to the north weſt, and on the oppoſite ſide of the ſilver ſtreamed Tiviot, as in an amphitheatre, opening to the ſouth, the eye is ſtruck with the plain, yet elegant modern houſe of Minto, which, though remarkable for its romantic ſituation, is greatly more diſtinguiſhed as the birth place of eminent patriots, ſtateſmen and legiſlators, guardians of their country. To the ſouth-eaſt, and at ſtill a farther diſtance, appears alſo ſtrikingly in view, the houſe of Edgerſton, equally diſtinguiſhed for the fidelity, proweſs, and loyalty of its inhabitants, as it is remarkable for its having continued for many ages, the

ſeat

ſeat of an ancient Scottiſh Baron, the neareſt to the Engliſh, now the Britiſh capital; and thereby, in this famous Iſle, has at laſt become, inſtead of the utmoſt barrier of the northern, happily the centre of the United Kingdom. Weſtward, he views, from its ſource, the beautiful windings of the woody Rule, where it iſſues in three ſtreams from the lofty mountains, the Not O' the Gate, Fana, and Windburgh, to where its rapidly rolling flood mixes with the Tiviot, oppoſite to the caſtle of Fatlips, which is moſt romantically ſituated north of that river, almoſt in a line with the courſe of the Rule, on the ſummit of the eaſternmoſt, and moſt pictureſque of the Minto craigs; hills which, for ſituation and natural beauty, are not ſurpaſſed by any in this country.

Poor.—The indigent here are chiefly ſupported by aſſeſſment; a method, however well-intended, and, in the preſent ſtate of ſociety, in many parts of the country, perhaps unavoidable, is doubtleſs, at the ſame time, often hurtful to the deſerving poor, to humanity, and the intereſt of thoſe on whom the burden is laid. There are 500 merks which were mortified (ſunk) to the poor of the barony of Bedrule 1695, by William Ramſay in Bedrule mill, and Margaret Turnbull, his wife; of which it is ſaid, (for the writer never ſaw the deed of mortification itſelf) the family of Cavers Carre are left truſtees. Mrs Mary Ann Stevenſon, relict of the Rev. Mr James Borland, mortified (ſunk) 100l. Scots to the poor of this pariſh, of which, in the account thereof, in the pariſh record, the Seſſion appear to have been appointed by her the overſeers. But, with the deed of mortification itſelf, if ever any was executed by Mrs Borland, the writer is not as yet acquainted. The latter ſum, with other monies, ſavings of the Seſſion in former

times

times, are ſtocked out at intereſt, in two *cumulo* ſums, the one of 45l. the other of 111l. Sterling.

Parochial Regiſter.—The regiſter of the names of children born in the pariſh, ſeems to have been carefully attended to from the commencement of the above mentioned record 1690, until the enactment of a late act of Parliament, laying a ſmall tax thereon; which, very different from the purpoſe thereby intended, here operates as a prohibition. For, although the tax be ſmall, and doubtleſs trifling to many, even of the common people, in towns, where money is plenty, and wages high; yet, not a few of the labouring poor, eſpecially in remote parts of the country, conſider it as hard; and, therefore, whatever can be ſaid, as it entirely depends on their own choice, whether they have their childrens names recorded in the pariſh regiſter or not, do, moſt of them, in this pariſh at leaſt, diſcontinue a practice ſo neceſſary in ſociety, and often ſo uſeful and intereſting to individuals; and, unfortunately, from the poverty of the people, this ſeems to be moſt generally the caſe in the country, where, different from populous towns, there is almoſt no other means to ſupply that omiſſion; and, unluckily, thoſe are the people, who, notwithſtanding their mean circumſtances, uſually rear, on their ſcanty earnings, the moſt numerous, uncorrupted, and hardy offspring; and, thereby, happily counteract the baneful effects of idleneſs, immorality, and diſſipation in Society. Such, therefore, in every view, are well entitled to have their childrens births recorded, thereby, not only to diſcover the changes, reſources, and ſtrength of the nation, but alſo, ſo far as to themſelves or poſterity may be intereſting or agreeable, to have the place of their birth, their age and memory, preſerved on record. We therefore

accord with the author of the Statiſtical Account of the pariſh of who ſuggeſts the propriety of granting them a ſmall premium for doing this, rather than to prevent them, by the impoſition of a very trifling, and conſequently unproductive tax; and, were this the caſe, it would certainly ſeem neither hard nor unreaſonable, were the Legiſlature to charge with a tax, all thoſe who, notwithſtanding ſuch indulgence and favour, neglect to acquit themſelves of a duty ſo neceſſary, both to their children and ſociety.

School.—The ſchoolmaſter has what is called a legal ſalary, which, when fixed by law, as the *minimum*, was a ſum of conſiderable value, but now, from the aſtoniſhing change on the value of money, is a ſorry pittance indeed. As they are moſtly the children of poor people who attend him, the wages are alſo low, and he has nothing now allowed him, as he formerly had, for teaching poor ſcholars. His ſchoolhouſe* is almoſt a ruin.

Manſe.—The manſe is alſo in a bad ſtate; but, as it has been twice condemned, once by a jury of tradeſmen appointed by the presbytery, according to law, 20th June 1792; another time, by a ſecond jury of tradeſmen, by order of the Court of Seſſion, mutually choſen by the heritors and preſbytery, 26th July 1793; it is to be re-built, and in a ſituation more dry and leſs expoſed than the preſent one, and alſo at a ſmall diſtance from the church.

Stipend, &c.—The living of Bedrule was originally, what, according to our law, is called a benefice. The whole teinds in

* For a ſchoolmaſter's right to a ſchool-houſe and ſalary, *vide* Act 5. Parl. 1. Cha. I. Act 26. Seſ. 6. Parl. 1. K. W.

in the parish, viz. both parsonage and vicarage, having pertained, *pleno jure*, to the kirk or parson. And this was the case, not only before, but also a considerable time after the Reformation, as well when Presbyterian church government prevailed, as while Episcopacy was the established religion of this country. But, during the civil wars, a considerable change seems to have taken place, by no means favourable to the living. Yet, notwithstanding, the minister, till lately, had right by a decreet of locality of stipend, passed 19th February 1662, to 400l. Scotch money, and 35 merks for furnishing communion-elements, with 3 chalders, 5 bolls and odds victual, and the whole vicarage teinds, *ipsa corpora*, of the baronies of Bedrule, Rewcastle, and Knowsouth, in lieu of a small additional sum of money, also allowed for furnishing elements, and an additional quantity of victual, contained in a decreet of modification of stipend, dated 13th February 1650, on which said decreet of locality was founded. But by a late modification, the stipend is considerably altered, of which the writer is, as yet, unable to give a full account. Joseph Hume, Esq; of Ninewells, in Berwickshire, is patron of the parish.

The *glebe**, in an instrument taken by Mr Henry Ellot, minister of Bedrule, as far back as 3d June 1640, in the lan-

 guage

* Each landward minister, by act 118, Parliament 12. James VI. 5th June 1592, (besides his stipend, &c.) is entitled to 4 acres Scotch, equal to 5 acres English, of the best arable or *infield* kirk-land in the parish, contiguous or nearest to the church, over and above what is occupied by his manse, offices, garden, and stack-yard, for which there is usually assigned half an acre; and by Act 7th, Parliament 18th, James VI. 9th July 1606, if there be no kirk lands of that description in the parish, near to the church, as from said act appears to have been the case in a number of parishes in the kingdom at that time, particularly on the borders, and in the Highlands, to have the whole or whatever was rendered thereby deficient, made up of kirk land *outfield*,

guage of thoſe times, deſigned, *the whole glebe and kirklands** has been a good deal ameliorated by former incumbents, though much ſtill remains to be done. The progreſs they have made in clearing it of immenſe quantities of granite or whin ſtones, with which, notwithſtanding all that has been done, it ſtill abounds, is the moſt eſſential and durable improvement that has been made. For though, in its original ſtate, it might be judged equal in value to 4 acres Scotch, (5 acres Engliſh,) of good arable land, yet, from their improvements, and the extent of its ſurface, which, with the bed of the river, that partly interſects it, and a ſteep bank occupied by wood, † all taken together

outfield, ſufficient to paſture four *ſoums*, in lieu of each acre arable, to which he was otherwiſe entitled, being deſigned him. From this, as well as from other cauſes, particularly on the borders and in the Highlands, it happens that ſome glebes are of greater extent than others, independent of graſs ſufficient to paſture one horſe and two cows being aſſigned according to act 24th, Parliament 1ſt, Charles II. 1663, to which, notwithſtanding, by ſaid act, the miniſters of theſe pariſhes are alſo entitled: *vide* Mackenzie's obſervations on act 17th, Parliament 18th, James VI. And, therefore, from the difference of the ability and pains of incumbents in improving ſuch glebes, as well as from their ſize and the nature of their ſoil, obviouſly proceeds the difference of their value. Hence the importance of adopting ſome reaſonable plan, as has been often ſuggeſted, the more effectually to excite all miniſters, who are able, to do ſo, without prejudice or loſs to thoſe who do it, their families or heirs, on the event of their removal or death. By this means, though ſucceſſors were bound to make a reaſonable allowance for important and durable improvements, at the ſight of arbiters choſen by the parties, the livings would be benefited, while none concerned could be any way injured.

* As "*the glele and kirk land of the kirk of Jedburgh*," *vide* ſaid record, 25th March ſame year; *vide* alſo chap. 62. Par. 5. James VI.; chap. 10. Par. 23. James VI.

† Though the miniſter had been in uſe to cut the wood on his glebe, yet the heritors of Bedrule, ſoon after the admiſſion of Mr George Dickſon, queſtioned his right to do ſo, who, when the cauſe was tried in the Court of Seſſion, obtained a decreet in favour of his title, paſſed 30th July 1754, by

gether, may contain an area of near three times that quantity; it is now of greater value, and might be rendered ſtill more ſo, were it compleatly cleared of earthfaſt ſtones, and properly drained and incloſed.

The miniſter has neither his **ſoums graſs*, as ſome of his predeceſſors appear to have had, nor any allowance for them, that he knows of.

There was formerly a large common in the pariſh, on which, by uſe and wont, he had right to paſture, &c. It was

by Lord Drumore, Ordinary on the bills. In conſequence of which, the miniſter is in the practice, as he has always been, of diſpoſing of the wood on his glebe like any other crop, according as he judges proper, without any moleſtation or interference whatever.

* In ancient times, when it was neceſſary to unite the people as cloſe as poſſible by a common intereſt for their common defence, and in defence of their country, it was cuſtomary for the land called *infield* or arable, to be held and occupied by proprietors and tenants, in what was called *run-rig*, each, as his property was ſmall or great, having been thereby able to *roum* and fodder in winter, a number of cattle in proportion to the quantity of his arable land. And, for the ſame reaſon, it ſeems probable, that the land *outfield*, in many places, was occupied in common, each proprietor or tenant, in a certain diſtrict, pariſh, or eſtate, having been thereby entitled to *ſoum* or paſture on the *outfield land* in ſummer, in proportion to the number and kinds of cattle he was thus able to *roum* or fodder in winter, by means of his ſhare of *infield-land*.

A *ſoum* is ſaid to have conſiſted of about ten ſheep or one cow, a horſe having been conſidered as equal to two *ſoums*.

The miniſter of every landward pariſh, has, by law, Act 24. Parl. 1. Cha. II. 1663, beſides what is uſually called his arable glebe, as above mentioned, alſo right to *graſs* or *grazing* for one horſe and two cows; or to have a ſufficient quantity of ſuitable land, near the church, laid off for that purpoſe; or to have 20 l. Scots paid him annually in lieu thereof, a ſum, at that time, fully equivalent thereto, or temporal land deſigned: For though Act 31. Parl. 1644, reſpecting an arable glebe; and Act 45. Parl. 1649, reſpecting graſs, were repealed by Act reſciſſory; yet the above mentioned Act 24. Parl. 1. Cha. II. 1663, was certainly meant to ſerve all the purpoſes of ſaid acts, in favour of the eſtabliſhed clergy.

was divided 9th September 1696, without any ſhare being laid off to the miniſter in lieu thereof. Againſt theſe dilapidations, the then incumbent, Mr James Borland, as miniſter of Bedrule, proteſted, in his own name, and in name of his ſucceſſors in office, miniſters there; and this he did on the ground, and at the time, when the heritors were occupied with their arbiters in dividing the ſame; and, thereupon, took inſtruments in the hands of Thomas Cranſtoun, notar public, in preſence of ſundry witneſſes, as a copy of ſaid inſtrument, now before the writer, more fully ſhews. But Mr Borland, having been then advanced in life, ſeems to have done this merely to exonerate himſelf, and to preſerve, as well as he could, a right to any of his ſucceſſors, who might think it expedient, fully to proſecute it: "For, the law has ordained, that the miniſter or parſon, *quatenus parſon*, never dies, but he and his ſucceſſors are viewed in a corporate capacity. Hence, all the original rights of the parſonage are, in the eye of the law, preſerved entire and inviolate to the ſucceſſor. The preſent incumbent and his predeceſſor, who lived a century or more ago, are, in law, one and the ſame perſon; what was the right of the one, is ſtill the right of the other." There was likewiſe a ſmall common near the church called *Gourlay Bog*, on which the miniſter of Bedrule was alſo in uſe to paſture, and, like the former, was divided, but at a later period, without any part thereof being aſſigned him, or any indemnification, as yet made for the loſs the living thereby ſuſtained. He has right to caſt 10 *darg* ‡ of *turf* ‖ annually, viz. 6 on the muirs of Fulton, Corſcleugh and Bedrule; 2 on Newton Muir, and 2 on Rewcaſtle Muir. Indeed, as coals are at a very great

‡ A *darg* of turf is as many as can be caſt with one ſpade in one day.

‖ For a miniſter's right to fuel, &c. and all other privileges, according to uſe and wont, *vide* chap. 165. Parl. 13. James 6th. 21ſt July 1593.

great diſtance; and the roads, till of late turnpikes were made, a great part of the year almoſt impaſſable; and no peat in the pariſh, it ſeems probable, that turf, which is here, in general, remarkably good, was the fuel chiefly uſed in former times But now that coals are attainable, though, owing to the great diſtance they are brought, and to toll-bars on the road, very expenſive; even the pooreſt people in the pariſh, uſe a few of them.

Church.—The antiquity of the church, we are as yet unable to trace; but, from its figure and conſtruction, it ſeems to have been built in thoſe times, when the conſtitution of men was greatly more ſtrong than it is at preſent; for, according to the cuſtom of our hardy forefathers, it is partly below ground, and the windows, or rather ſlits, are not made to open and ſhut, by which the air is unavoidably affected, and rendered ſomewhat like that in a family vault or damp cellar. The whole fabric is much decayed, and has been, for a conſiderable time, in a ruinous ſtate.

Notwithſtanding our other improvements, we are extremely ſorry we have to regret the bad ſtate of many of our pariſh churches, and that thereby ſo little encouragement is given to the people to attend public worſhip there, where it is obviouſly the intereſt, as well as the bounden duty of the teacher to inſtruct them to fear God, to honour the King, to obey the good Laws, to reſpect and revere the happy Conſtitution of their country, and to pray that thereby liberty and peace may not only be enjoyed by them in their days, but alſo conveyed full and entire to their children, and, by the ſame happy and liberal means, tranſmitted unimpaired to the lateſt poſterity. We are the more particular on this head, for the information of *ſtrangers* §, many of whom, we underſtand, form,

§ It may be proper here alſo to inform ſtrangers, that the Eſtabliſhed Clergy

form an unfavourable opinion of the religion, people, and clergy of this country on that account; as, with the greateſt juſtice, we are able to aſſure them, that the bad, and indeed very indecent ſtate in which they find many of the pariſh churches

Clergy of Scotland are ſupported by a ſmall part of the ancient patrimony of the national church, the remainder thereof being moſtly in the poſſeſſion of lay *titulars* or impropriators, whereby, properly ſpeaking, the public can be underſtood no more to contribute to the maintenance of the Eſtabliſhed Clergy, than to that of theſe lay *titulars*, or impropriators of the patrimony of the church. Therefore, by our law, when it is judged neceſſary, from the change on the value of money, or any other obvious and onerous cauſe, for the court of teinds, which was originally a committee of the Parliament of Scotland, to grant what is called an augmentation, or, more properly ſpeaking, to bring the miniſter's preſent ſtipend ſomewhat nearer to its original value, they can have recourſe to theſe funds only; and no landholders or others are affected either with ſtipend, or what is called augmentation of ſtipend, but only ſo far as they are proven to be poſſeſſed of them; and though the ſmall remains of the patrimony of the church, that are ſtill reſerved by the Conſtitution for theſe purpoſes, were, by law, alſo ſecularized, and either applied for the lightening of the taxes, or granted, by royal favour, as the reſt have been, to individuals, for ſervices real or ſuppoſed, this would not diminiſh, but, perhaps, rather increaſe the burden on thoſe on whom it preſently lies, who can pretend no right thereto, more than they can to the old church lands, or free teinds heritably poſſeſſed by others, or the free teinds of their own eſtates, which they, their anceſtors, or authors, have neither obtained by favour from the Crown, nor as yet purchaſed, according to law, from their lay *titulars*, or impropriators. As the ſecularization of theſe funds, when underſtood, in point of intereſt, is little to be deſired by heritors, ſo alſo, if they view the matter properly, as little by the commonalty, not even by Diſſenters themſelves; and, we believe, is really ſeriouſly deſired by few who have a ſincere regard for the good of their country: becauſe we know of no *ſpecies* of *Chriſtianity* it would not be obviouſly the intereſt of ſociety to be the Eſtabliſhed Religion, rather than *none*; for, however in ſpeculative points they may differ, and, in theſe, often more in words than ideas, in their regard for morals, we are ſatisfied, all the ſincere are perfectly united, aud we believe that moſt, even of Diſſenters, who feel the comfort, and admit the uſefulneſs of ſocial worſhip and public inſtruction, are alſo friendly to the preſervation

of

churches in this country, neither proceeds from the genius of Preſbytery (the Eſtabliſhed Religion) the temper of the people of Scotland, nor the taſte of the Eſtabliſhed Clergy, who all feel, and often expreſs the hardſhip of their ſituation

of the eſtabliſhment of parochial churches and ſchools. And that this is the caſe, is evident from this, that none do more heartily accord with the common, and perhaps, in too many inſtances, well founded outcry againſt the late frequent annexations and ſuppreſſions in different parts of the country. And, therefore, the only difference on that head is, as is natural and ſuppoſeable, that each would wiſh the clergy and ſchoolmaſters, ſettled in the pariſh churches and ſchools, eſtabliſhed by law, of their own ſect or profeſſion. But all muſt ſee, that in this, as in a few ſpeculative opinions, in which ſects differ from each other, they are not only oppoſed to all who at preſent adhere to the Eſtabliſhed Church, by far the major part of the community, but are alſo thereby equally in oppoſition to the inclinations and wiſhes of one another. Nay, farther, when the matter is duly conſidered, the annihilation of an Eſtabliſhed Clergy, as it is againſt the inclination, ſo, obviouſly, it would be contrary to the ſecular intereſt of the people. For there is not, perhaps, a popular complaint better founded, and, in the juſtice of which all deſcriptions of men are more agreed, than that againſt the modern cuſtom of the the money raiſed in the country by the non-reſidence of many of the landholders, different from the practice of their fathers, being ſpent ſo much at a diſtance from it. Now, by our excellent Conſtitution, the clergy of Scotland are all without exception bound to reſide. By this means all that they receive in ſtipend, out of the lands of their reſpective pariſhes, &c. is, thereby, not only kept in the country, but, moſt of it, ſpent in the ſeveral pariſhes and neareſt market towns to theſe pariſhes, in which, both by the laws of the church and the ſtate, they, the clergy, are bound to reſide. Whatever, therefore, be the wiſh of thoſe (we truſt they are but few) who are equally inimical to order, to law, and to good government, as they are to religion, we are ſatisfied, that few, if any, of any deſcription, even of Diſſenters, at leaſt in this part of the country, have ſo far degenerated from the well known principles of their pious and virtuous anceſtors, as to wiſh national religion altogether aboliſhed, but only, that it were of that ſect or party of which they are members. But ſuppoſing it otherwiſe, we would aſk ſuch, What they would think of a Government or State, ſuppoſe Great Britain, that would ſeize upon all that has been diſponed by individuals for the ſupport of religious worſhip and public inſtruction, it

in this reſpect, and their hearty diſapprobation thereof; and ſome of the people thus circumſtanced, even go the length to give it as the reaſon for their remaining at home in bad weather, and others, of deſerting the Eſtabliſhed Church altogether,

is no matter, if it has been tolerated by law, of what ſect or deſcription? Would this not cut down, at one ſtroke, the pious funds of all the Diſſenters, together with the remaining part of the patrimony of the church, ſtill reſerved by the Legiſlature to be applied according to its original intention, for the ſupport of national religion, *i. e. public worſhip* and *inſtruction?* The Eſtabliſhed Clergy of Scotland, as was ſaid, being, by law, moſt ſtrictly bound to reſide, none of them, therefore, are capable of holding pluralities, or any living, *in commendam*, by which means, independent of the ſuitableneſs of this ſalutary regulation, the money they receive in ſtipend, &c. as was alſo mentioned, is neceſſarily circulated in the pariſhes and neareſt market towns to where it is raiſed, by which means the people have not only immediately the benefit of their inſtruction, advice, and friendſhip, but alſo, mediately, of the ſtipends they receive, by their being expended amongſt them. By the law of Scotland, alſo, the poor of every deſcription or ſect whatever, without exception, in each landward pariſh, have a legal title to call upon the eſtabliſhed miniſter, and he is bound, if the heritors and tenants do not duly aſſeſs themſelves in what is reaſonable for their maintenance, upon proper information, to report to the Judge Ordinary, what appears ſo to him, and aid the may be otherwiſe altogether helpleſs, and thereby prevent what might, in ſome caſes, perhaps, prove a fatal delay. For the miniſter is uſually unable, however diſpoſed, himſelf to ſupply them, or to find any other certain means whereby to ſupply them, according to their often great and urgent neceſſities. And, therefore, this benevolent and wiſe regulation, in our law, though ſeldom exerciſed, is a moſt neceſſary and proper ſecurity to the poor, eſpecially in theſe times, different from thoſe in which landholders generally reſided in the country, and regularly attended the church; by which means, they not only had an opportunity to hear and know weekly, the ſtate of the poor in the pariſh, but, beſides contributing themſelves, of ſetting an example to their tenants and dependants, alſo, to contribute to their relief; whereas, it is now too generally cuſtomary for them, not only to reſide the greateſt part of the year, if not altogether, in the Capital, or ſome great town, but, when in the country, rarely, if at all, to attend public worſhip. As this modern practice has already greatly affected ſociety, ſo it is particularly hurtful to the intereſt

together, and attending divine ſervice with the Diſſenters, whoſe houſes of worſhip, though built by contribution, are decent, convenient, and comfortable; and chooſe rather to do this, though accompanied with expence, than attend the Eſtabliſhed Clergy in thoſe churches where their health is in danger. Strangers will naturally wiſh to be informed from whence the neglect proceeds. Candour, however painful, obliges us plainly to ſtate the anſwer. By the law and practice of Scotland, different from what obtains in ſome other countries, the burden of building and repairing the churches eſtabliſhed by law, particularly in *landward* or country pariſhes, is not raiſed by aſſeſſment on all poſſeſſors of lands and houſes, whether tenant or proprietor, indiſcriminately, nor raiſed by briefs, but is raiſed from lands only; and, therefore, by the ſame right, according to the Conſtitution and preſent exiſting law of Scotland, by which our *heritors* or landholders in the act called *pariſhioners** poſſeſs their eſtates,

reſt and comfort of the modeſt and deſerving poor, by ſo much breaking off their connection with the wealthy, and, in moſt caſes, even preventing them being known to them; by which means, the modeſt and ſhameleſs, the induſtrious and ſlothful, the deſerving and worthleſs, are unavoidably placed on the ſame footing, and claſſed indiſcriminately on the ſame common roll, which, though in an aſſeſſment of that nature, can ſcarcely be avoided, is obviouſly the occaſion of many and great evils, beſides increaſing the *poor-rates*.

* *Pariſhioners*, i. e. *heritors*. This expreſſion is equally agreeable to the law and practice of Scotland: "For, (in the words of a great lawyer † on that head) all who have lands in a pariſh, are conſidered as *pariſhioners*, without reſpect to their reſidence, *as to all parochial burdens*, which are proportioned to the valuation of every heritor's lands in the pariſh, and not to his quality or his lands in other pariſhes." Act 54. Parl. 3. Ja. 6. 1572. "And (in the words of the ſame great man) the church yard is fenced with dykes, partly for ornament, and partly as a preſervative to the dead bodies, from being

† *Forbes on Teinds, pages* 209 *and* 215.

they are bound, beſides upholding manſe and ſchool-houſe, to build and repair the pariſh church, church-yard walls, &c. where their lands are ſituated, in a reaſonable and decent manner. Hence, as is obvious, ſuch landholders, and they only, who neglect to do ſo, *give ground* for that reflection; and the bad ſtate of many of the pariſh churches of this country, thereby become ſo juſt a cauſe of complaint to the people, to the very people, who by their adherence to the eſtabliſhed religion of the country, certainly do ſhew themſelves not the leaſt friendly to our happy Conſtitution, in church and in ſtate; thereby, alſo, as is obvious, the laws are infringed, and the moſt peaceable and religious of his Majeſty's ſubjects, much aggrieved. For, the law of this country is ſo well and ſo wiſely framed, as to lay the burden of building and repairing the church and ſchool-houſe, &c. upon the rich, to relieve the poor, not upon perſons, but upon property, therefore, no individual's rights or property are or can be, invaded or affected thereby; nor can any perſons or claſſes of men, of whatever deſcription, be any way interfered with, but as proprietors of lands, *for their lands only*; on which expreſs condition they are conveyed and held; and, therefore, by neglecting to acquit themſelves of theſe legal engagements, to which they are bound by the ſame tenure they hold their eſtates, as well as to fulfill ſo pious and important

being digged up and devoured by beaſts. The building and repairing of churches and church-yard dykes, was once referred to the Privy Council, act 76. Parl. 9. 2d May 1693. But now the pariſhioners, *i. e. heritors*, muſt build and repair the church yard dykes with ſtone and mortar two elns (yards) high, with ſufficient ſtiles and entries, and the Lords of Seſſion are to direct letters of horning againſt them to that effect: Act 232. Parl. 15. Ja. 6. 1597." The pariſhioners (heritors) are alſo bound to provide communion cups, tables, and table cloths, &c. *vide* chap. 6. Parl. 22 Ja. 6. 1617.

portant a duty; they, at the ſame time, plainly ſhew a high diſreſpect to the worſhip of God, and a great diſregard for the Conſtitution and Laws of their country, by which they are ſecured and protected in the enjoyment of their rights and property.

It may be aſked, Is there no *compulſitor* provided by law in hard caſes? There is. But, not to mention how averſe the people reſiding in a pariſh, naturally muſt be to enter into a proceſs at law with the very perſons of whom they farm their lands; the trouble and expence of ſuch a proceſs, with men ſo weighty and powerful, is an objection to them for the moſt part inſurmountable. And it is the more hard, as there is no reaſon to doubt, but that the people in the communion of the Eſtabliſhed Church would be equally forward, according to their abilities, to re-build and repair their churches, as the Diſſenters are their houſes of worſhip, were it not, that the law has ſo wiſely ordered it otherwiſe, by laying the burden of ſupporting the eſtabliſhed religion of the country, on lands purchaſed and held on that expreſs condition, whereby all perſons of whatever deſcription, except proprietors of lands *for their lands only*, are, juſtly ſpeaking, exempted; and thoſe alone, who are inclined to adhere to the eſtabliſhed church, are affected by their neglect; and thus, thereby, either made to ſuffer, or involve themſelves in a proceſs of law, which, for reaſons above mentioned, they rarely adventure upon; or abſent themſelves from divine ſervice; a cuſtom, alas! become too common; or take refuge among the Diſſenters, whoſe houſes of worſhip are duly attended to, and where the people ſit, in the ſevereſt weather, dry and comfortable: and, it is proper to add, what certainly ought to have much weight, that however inclined thoſe adhering to the Eſtabliſhed Church, in moſt country pariſhes, may be to accommodate themſelves, if the law had not ordered

dered it otherwiſe, this is in a great meaſure to them impracticable, not only by their diſtance from one another, but more eſpecially their generally low circumſtances, who, notwithſtanding, as our happy Conſtitution has fixed it, have as good a right, by law, to enjoy the advantages of religious inſtruction and education, by the wiſe inſtitution of parochial clergy, and eſtabliſhed ſchoolmaſters, as their more wealthy brethren in cities and in towns, to whom, by their nearneſs to one another, their numbers and greater wealth, the want of theſe eſtabliſhments, ſo particularly neceſſary in the country, might, however proper alſo in towns, by the inhabitants thereof, be more eaſily ſupplied; whereas, if the poor and ſcattered inhabitants in moſt landward pariſhes, be deprived of the benefit of their eſtabliſhed churches and parochial ſchools, as appointed by law, many of them, eſpecially in remote ſituations, muſt unavoidably loſe the advantages of religious inſtruction and education, † ſo intereſting, not only to

† As mortifications and donations amongſt diſſenters are intended to ſupport a particular church or ſect, according to the will of the donors, ſo the funds in Scotland, appropriated by law for the ſupport of public teachers, in landward diſtricts or pariſhes, ought, in like manner, ever to be conſidered as ſacred depoſits, wiſely preſerved by the legiſlature in favour of the community, in order that people in the meaneſt circumſtances, and moſt retired ſituations, may always have the opportunity of being inſtructed in true religion, "to do juſtly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly; to do to all "as they would they ſhould do to them, were they in their circumſtances," and whenever the inſtitution of public inſtructors has a different tendency, which, we are apt to believe, is ſeldom the caſe, this by no means proceeds from the nature or principle of the inſtitution itſelf, but from the perverſion of its original intention and obvious uſe, and this the community ought, therefore, ever moſt carefully to guard againſt, and alſo againſt any of its members being conſtrained to attend the Eſtabliſhed teachers, in preference to others, or thoſe who do attend them, being any way diſturbed on that account.

to themſelves and their children, but alſo to the political health and happineſs of the ſtate.

It will probably be ſuppoſed, that the miniſter of the pariſh, in particular, is thereby called upon, in duty, to inſiſt for the fulfilment of the law; but, not to mention what is uſually the caſe, his utter inability, in point of circumſtances, to enter the liſts with a number of wealthy and powerful opponents, and that, too, without any other aid or countenance, but the goodneſs of his cauſe; he is almoſt certain of being thereby involved in inexpreſſible difficulties; and, in the iſſue, as has often been experienced, may not only have the mortification of being diſappointed of ſucceſs, but alſo, however unjuſtly, of being thereby held up as litigious, teaſing, and troubleſome.¶

It

¶ Indeed it may be proper, in this place, to obſerve, in general, that the people ſeem more diſſatisfied at their inability to render the laws efficient, than at what they conſider the moſt unequal and heavy of the taxes: that ſome of them chuſe rather to ſubmit to oppreſſion and the loſs of their property, than contend in a law ſuit with the wealthy, &c. becauſe they are afraid, which ever way it go, of the effects thereof, while their rich opponents, from their greater wealth, &c. would be ſcarcely at all affected by it, and they can thereby eaſily, alſo, perplex and prolong the buſineſs, and carry it from one Court to another, where, from the greater expence, diſtance, &c. they, their feeble antagoniſts, are ſtill more unable to contend:—And that this is ſometimes effectually held out *in terrorem*, when any of them happen to be hardy enough to preſume to maintain their juſt rights, contrary to the pleaſure of their more opulent neighbours. ‡ To add to theſe hardſhips, they alſo complain, that they have not acceſs for ordinary, to thoſe by whom they are aggrieved, to plead their cauſe or ſtate their caſe, hardſhips and grievances, but only through people employed by them, of whom they have uſually a ſtill more unfavourable

‡ *From the words of a certain great man, (Dr Johnſon) it is evidently his opinion, that "No ſcheme of policy has, in any country yet, brought the rich and poor "on equal terms, into Courts of Judicature." But he ſeems not altogether to deſpair of it; for he adds, "Perhaps experience improving on experience, may in time effect it."*

It is for reaſons ſuch as theſe, and not from a want of deſire on the part of the people and miniſter of Bedrule, to have every thing put on a legal footing, that the church-yard wall is in great diſrepair, that the gate is ſo broken down and neglected, as not to prevent the intruſion of ſwine, and thereby to alarm the people in the neighbourhood for the graves of their deceaſed relations; that the church bell, which has been long rent, is now altogether uſeleſs by the want of a tongue; that the beadle is without a ſalary; that the manſe has, till of late, been inhabited by the miniſter, notwithſtanding its long very bad ſtate; that the *church and ſchoolhouſe* ſtill remain in their ruinous condition. And, we are ſorry to ſay, that that kind of neglect is too common over the country; and, not to mention that many, who from their rank or ſtation,

unfavourable opinion; and, therefore, to whom, though, for the moſt part, we believe, unjuſtly, they are apt to aſcribe their hardſhips and difficulties. But, in order to judge how much this is the caſe, we need only remind our reader of the anſwer given by Charles II., though repreſented, at the ſame time, by the hiſtorian who relates the fact, as of a humane and feeling diſpoſition, when informed of the hardſhips the people ſuffered, under the adminiſtration of a certain great ſervant of his: "I perceive, ſaid he, that Lauderdale has been guilty of many bad things againſt the people of Scotland, but I cannot find, that he has acted any thing *contrary to my intereſt.*" And, therefore, notwithſtanding, his confeſſed humanity, he neither called him to account, nor diſmiſſed him his ſervice, far leſs did he give him orders to repair the injuries done. When we have ſaid thus much, we ſubmit the weight and importance of our obſervations, with great deference, to the penetrating eye of an impartial public, particularly to thoſe in the ſenate and judgment-ſeat, whom our excellent Conſtitution has happily rendered independent and free. And, the more plainly, becauſe, we are ſatisfied, that the beſt ſupport of any nation, the ſtrongeſt pillars of any government, are, That the people's morals be ſound, that their manners be civil, that their religion be liberal, that the laws, that *juſtice*, be equally eaſy and acceſſible to all.

ſtation, as well as intereſt in the country, ought certainly to ſet a better example, abſent themſelves from public worſhip altogether, the diſreſpect that is thus ſhewn to law and religion, as well as diſregard to the inclination, convenience, and comfort of the people, is, in our opinion, equally impolitic in them as it is illegal and profane. For, we may expect, and we pray God it be not in ſome degree the caſe already, that the contempt that has been of late ſo generally thrown on religion and its peaceful adherents, may, in time, excite the multitude, who are but too apt to imitate the *vices* of their ſuperiors, rather than their *virtues*, to ſhake off their honeſt, as well as pious principles, and at laſt to become, if not as profane, at leaſt as corrupt as too many of thoſe who eſteem themſelves their betters. When this event takes place, which, if not wiſely prevented, may be nearer than many of us imagine, thoſe who have done the miſchief muſt ſeverely feel the effects of it, and will thereby, though, perhaps, too late, find the *neceſſity*, from the want of a better *principle*, of ſetting the example of a proper regard to the laws of God and their country, for their own *intereſt* and in their own *defence*. For, whatever falſe and vain philoſophers may pretend, a nation or people, without *religion* will alſo be without *principle*.

But the writer, when he has ſaid thus much, is at the ſame time happy, with great juſtice and equal pleaſure, to be able to add, that by far the greater part of the heritors or landholders of Scotland are of a very different deſcription. And, therefore, from a real regard to the worſhip of God, the comfort, good will, and convenience of the people, and concern for the credit of their native country, as well as from their high reſpect for its conſtitution and laws, they have the pariſh churches, where their lands are ſituated, not only *decent* and *comfortable*, but ſome of them *elegant*.

Clergy.¶—Mr Joseph Tennent, who seems to have been one of the first of the Reformed clergy in this part of the country, is mentioned in an old record of presbytery, as minister of Bedrule, as far back as the 1606, and lived till about the 1631; who also held, for a considerable time, the living of Abbotrule, the cure of which he likewise served, even down to about the year 1621, when it was disjoined from Bedrule; and Mr James Ker, laird of the Grange, an estate in that parish, whose wife was charged with *witchcraft*, but, as appears from the above record, *most unjustly*, was ordained there; he being the first Protestant minister of Abbotrule after its disjunction from Bedrule. Mr Tennent was succeeded by Mr David Fowlis, who was admitted 30th October 1633, by the Bishop of Caithness § and presbytery of Jedburgh. Mr Fowlis was soon after translated to Oxnam, which, in those times, seems to have been considered as one of the most valuable livings in the South of Scotland; and Mr Henry Peirson succeeded him in the benefice of Bedrule. But the Covenanters†, soon after gaining the ascendency, both

¶ Here it may not be unworthy of remark, that the Scottish Church, in the rank of her Clergy, before her connexion with the See of Rome, was nearly the same as she became immediately on her Reformation from Popery: And, that *the Liturgy*, or *Book of Common Order*, received and used by the Reformed Kirk of Scotland, and commonly called *Knox's Liturgy*, for piety, simplicity, natural ease and energy of expression, is equalled by few, and surpassed by none.

§ This was Dr John Abernethy, then also minister of Jedburgh, and author of a theological work, entitled, "A Christian and Heavenly Treatise, containing Physic for the Soul." His name is mentioned in the printed acts of that period, as a Member of several Committees of the Scotch Parliament.

† The following extract, from the record of Presbytery, will enable the reader to form some idea, how indiscriminately the Covenant was administered, or rather imposed, upon many of the people, at that time, when the cen-

sures

both theſe gentlemen were removed from their churches, for their attachment to Epiſcopacy. Mr Henry Ellot was the

 Preſbyterian

ſures of the Church were followed up by civil penalties ‡ " At Jedburgh the laſt day of February 1644 (*Inter alia*) The quilk day Mr Walter Makgill acquainted the brethrin by his letter, that having ſummoned John Young and Thomas Young in Falscaſtle, before his Seſſion, for not ſubſcryving the Covenant, the ſaids perſons told the kirk officer, that they would *ken (know* or *acknowledge)* no ſeſſion nor miniſter, *but follow the command of their maſter, my Lord Traquair;* and for refuſal, he cauſed ſummon them before this preſbytery againſt this day, who not compearing, was ordeaned to be ſummoned *pro 2do* with certification." Hence the danger of impoſing indiſcriminately the ſame oath on all perſons of every deſcription, as well as the pernicious conſequence of multiplying oaths, and rendering an appeal to God, that laſt and moſt ſacred pledge of ſecurity to ſociety, too frequent and familiar to the people. Mr Macgill was miniſter of Cavers, and, as appears from the ſame record, preached before the preſbytery of Jedburgh, which met there 30th July 1645, for the viſitation of his kirk, at the advanced age of 101. Faſtcaſtle, which was then the property of the Earl of Traquair, is a curious mound of earth, whether natural or artificial, is uncertain, on which, till of late, there were ſeveral houſes, and, though in the pariſh of Cavers, is ſituated ſo near the ſite of the Caſtle of Bedrule, as gives ground to ſome to ſuppoſe it to have been raiſed in ancient times, as an outwork to that fortreſs.

‡ *However, at the ſame time, in juſtice to the memory of the Covenanters, we readily admit, that the baneful ſpirit of intolerance cannot with truth be more juſtly aſcribed to them than to moſt of the other ſects in Europe at that time. For all who are acquainted with the hiſtory of that period, well know, that the ſpirit of intolerance, from bad policy and miſtaken zeal, was unhappily the marked characteriſtic of moſt of of the great contending parties of thoſe times, according as they became poſſeſſed of power: Than which, as nothing is obviouſly more inimical to the peace of ſociety and the ſafety and happineſs of individuals, ſo, in the juriſprudence of nations, nothing ought more carefully to be guarded againſt. For though we ſee, by the ſame melancholy hiſtory, the* Catholic *and* Proteſtant, *the* Epiſcopalian *and* Preſbyterian, *while feeling the cruel effects of that hateful ſpirit, alike keenly inveighing againſt it, yet, we find them, when poſſeſſed of power, perſecuting in their turn: Alas! in this reſpect, all evidently ſhewing themſelves equally forgetful of their own complaints and ſufferings, as of the laws, precepts, and pattern of the meek and lowly Jeſus, whom, as they united in confeſſing the common Author of their Faith, they, (all the ſincere) doubtleſs conſidered as their only perfect example, lawgiver, and judge.*

Preſbyterian miniſter who ſucceeded Mr Peirſon, and was admitted by the preſbytery of Jedburgh, aſſiſted by Commiſſioners from the neighbouring preſbyteries of Selkirk, Kelſo, and Erſiltoun.* He died about the year 1653.

Mr

* As the following extract from the old ſederunt book of the acts and proceedings of the preſbytery of Jedburgh, gives the reader a diſtinct view of the *form* of *admiſſion* and *inſtitution* uſed by our anceſtors, *Preſbyterians*, and ſhews, with what attention and accuracy they conducted buſineſs, we, for the entertainment of the curious, inſert it here:

"*At Bedroule*, 3d *Junii* 1640.

"The whilk day being appointed for the admiſſion of Mr Henry Ellot "to the function of the miniſtrie, at the parochin kirke of Bedroule, the bre- "thren, with their elders, and the congregation, conveened day and place "forſaide, for that ſame effect, wherat Mr William Maxwell haiving preach- "ed, Mr William Weir, moderator, performed the act of the forſaide admiſ "ſion, conform to the practis of this church, in preſence, and with conſent "and applaus of the heritors and parochiners of the forſaide parochin, where- "in did aſſiſt and concurre with the brethren, Andrew Dunkiſon miniſter at "Laſowden, Mr Alexander Reid, miniſter at Aſhkirke, from the preſbitrie "of Selkirke, Mr Johne Douglas, miniſter at Yettam, from the preſbitrie of "Kelſo, and Mr Thomas Donaldſone, miniſter at Smellin, from the preſbi- "trie of Erſiltoun. The ſaide day the moderator, in name of the brethren, "aſked Mr Henry Ellot, preſently admitted, as hee hade done lykeways be- "for his forſaide admiſſion, if hee hade ſet any tacke of the teynds or vica- "rage of the forſaide kirke of Bedroule, to any; who anſred that he hade not "directlie nor indirectlie, next the brethren, inhibit thee ſaide Mr Henry, to "ſet any in tymes coming, without adveys and conſent of the brethren; the "ſaid Mr Henry promiſed faithfullie not to ſet any ſuch tackes either of teynds "or vicarage, without the forſaide advys and conſent; the which promis the "ſaid Mr Henry confirmed, with his ſolemn oath, in preſence of the brethren. "After which the ſaide Mr Henry required that the brethren would give "him inſtitution upon his preſentation, collation, and admiſſion, given bee "themſelves; the whilk requeſt, the brethren thought lawful, and therefore, "the moderator did give the ſaide Mr Henry inſtitution, by giving the bible "to the ſaide Mr Henry, he ſtanding in the pulpit, the which Bible, the ſaide "Mr Henry gaive about to his elders, as uſe is, and tooke inſtruments there-

"upon,

To thoſe, but a little acquainted with the hiſtory of that period, it is known, that in 1649, patronage was repealed, by act of Parliament, and, that, ſoon after, certain of the clergy were diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Proteſters*, from their proteſting againſt admitting thoſe called *Malignants* (Cavaliers,) into offices of truſt, or even into the Royal army, in oppoſition to another more numerous, but, in general, leſs popular party of the clergy, called *Reſolutioners*, from their reſolving their admiſſion on certain conditions: And, that, in conſequence of the jarring of thoſe parties, as well as the repeal of the law of patronage, the ſettlement of many churches was rendered difficult at that time. Whether from theſe, or from other cauſes, with which the writer is as yet unacquainted, the church of Bedrule, was kept vacant for

" upon, in the hands of Robert Rutherfurd, notar publicke, befor the brethren " and many of the elders and parochiners, whom he requyred to be witneſ- " ſes in confirmation of his forſaide iuſtitution. The ſaide day lykeways Mr " Henry Ellot deſired the brethren that they would bee pleaſed to deſigne ane " mans and gleibe to him, at the ſaide kirke, the whilk deſyre beeing found " lawfull the brethren ordains the forſaide deſignation to bee made preſentlie, " and therefor the brethren went together to the mans, pertaining to the mi- " niſter ſerving the cure at the kirke of Bedroule, and ther the moderator, in " their name and preſence, did give poſſeſſion to the ſaide Mr Henry *per tra-* " *ditionem clavium*, as uſe is, of the whole mans, houſes, biggings, and yeardes, " formerlie poſſeſt bee Mr Henry Peirſone, late incumbent ther; as alſo the " ſaide moderator, in name and preſence of the brethren, went and gaive poſ- " ſeſſion to the ſaide Mr Henry, *per traditionem lapidis & glebæ*, as uſe is, of " the whole gleibe and kirke lands pertaining and belonging to the miniſ- " ter ſerving the cure, at the forſaide kirke of Bedroule, and of late poſſeſt " bee the forſaide Mr Henry Peirſone, late incumbent ther; in verification " of the premiſes, the ſaide Mr Henry took inſtruments in preſence of the " brethren, in the hands of Robert Rutherfurd, notar publicke, requyring " likewys the lairds of Bedroule, elder and younger, with ſundrie others of " the parochiners, to bear witneſs thereunto."

for no ſhorter a period than the ſpace of five years. ‖ At laſt, Mr Hugh Scot was ſettled here, 17th March 1658. He did not continue long miniſter; for, on the re-eſtabliſhment of Epiſcopacy, he was removed from his church for non-conformity. Mr James Adamſon, miniſter of Carriden, was preferred to the living of Bedrule 7th September 1664, and continued miniſter here during the reigns of Charles and James, and ſeems to have died about the time of the Revolution. He was ſucceeded by Mr James Borland, in 1690, who was the firſt miniſter ſettled here after presbytery became again the eſtabliſhed religion. Mr Borland was ſucceeded by Mr John Gilchriſt in 1714, who, in 1748, was ſucceeded by Mr George Dickſon, to whom the preſent miniſter ſucceeded in 1788. And, it is remarkable, of theſe above mentioned nine incumbents, ſince the Reformation, except Mr David Fowlis, who was tranſlated to Oxnam, that they all died miniſters of Bedrule, or were removed from their charge, not for any fault or irregularity of conduct, but for their faithful adherence to the religion they profeſſed; and, however obviouſly of different ſentiments, fidelity and ſteadineſs in the cauſe they thought beſt, were equally remarkable in the character of all.

Advantages.—

‖ Indeed, from a remarkable coincidence of circumſtances, the records and hiſtory of this country, in general, during that period, happen to be very imperfect. For, not to mention, the records and other intereſting papers, which were carried to London by order of the Protector, having been loſt by the wreck of the veſſel in which they were returning, by order of Government, after the Reſtoration, on the Lothian coaſt, near Royſton, (Caroline park,) General Aſſemblies were interdicted during the Uſurpation: a Provincial Synod was, therefore, then the higheſt Eccleſiaſtical Court in this country; and the whole records of the provincial ſynod of Merſe and Tiviotdale, preceding 1708, and, probably, containing an account of the cauſe of that very long vacancy, were unfortunately deſtroyed by accidental fire in the manſe of Morebattle.

Advantages.—This parish is situated in the centre of a prosperous though not very populous county, intersected by the great road between Berwick and Carlisle, touched on by a branch of the London road to Edinburgh, not more than two miles distant from Jedburgh, about 7 miles from Hawick, both excellent market towns. The land is in general of a dry soil, yet watered by a considerable number of springs, rivulets and brooks, in most places of easy access and at convenient distances from each other. Besides, upon the West and North it is for the most part bounded by the before mentioned pure and copious streams of the Rule and the Teviot.

Disadvantages.—The great distance from coal, the badness of the road from Spittal bridge to the southern extremity of the parish, by which the people in this part of the country, usually pass or make a great circuit, to Reid, in Northumberland, for coal, and Windburgh, a considerable mountain on the borders of Liddysdale, for lime; and the badness of that from Bedrule to Jedburgh, the nearest market town, are disadvantages not only to this parish, but also to the neighbourhood, and which, with no great difficulty, may, and, we hope, soon will be removed, as both these roads, run, in general, on a gentle declivity and favourable bottom, and are near excellent materials.

Conclusion.—It will be observed, that the writer of the foregoing Statistical Account has avoided repeating the same things, so properly taken notice of in the accounts of the various parishes in this part of the country, already published; and, therefore, whensoever that is felt as a defect by the reader, it will be only necessary for him to suppose, that the inhabitants of the parish of Bedrule have nearly the same religious and political sentiments; predilections and prejudi-

cess,

ces*, are nearly of the ſame ſize, ſtrength, and vigour of body and mind, and, from ſimilar cauſes, are liable to the ſame diſeaſes, as mentioned in one or other of theſe accounts: That the ſame animals, fowls, and migratory birds, roam in the field, and fly in the air, indifferently over this and the neighbouring pariſhes; That the rivers abound with nearly the ſame kinds of fiſh, in the ſame ſeaſons of the year, of the ſame quality, flavour, and ſhape, and in general alſo nearly of

* It may be proper here only to remark, in general, that the people in this country ſeem not now ſo ſtrongly attached to their lairds or maſters as formerly; and that the predilection of many to their native ſoil, and a certain unfortunate family, is greatly diminiſhed; the former being much weakened, the latter almoſt every where worn out. Indeed, they ſeem now, in general, more anxious how they live, than where; how they are governed, than by whom; what the laws are, than who are their makers; and how juſt and equal ſoever they be, are apt to conſider themſelves protected thereby, only ſo far as they have it in their power to render them efficient. Theſe changes, we believe, may be eaſily accounted for. In this country, formerly, the greateſt reſpect was generally paid to family; for then almoſt every perſon conſidered himſelf of ſome family, and was thereby led to think he had an intereſt therein. And his intereſt, in this real or ſuppoſed connection, was, for the moſt part, not merely ideal. For, then, it was the pride of the laird or maſter, to have his tenants, retainers, and even domeſtics, of his own ſurname, many of them his near relations, and he commonly treated them as ſuch. By this means, his will was uſually as law to them; his honour their honour; his intereſt their intereſt. And, we are aſſured, where this is ſtill the caſe, the ſame is ſtill the effect. But where the cauſes are changed, it will not ſeem ſtrange, that the conſequences are alſo different. And however this change, in the minds of the people, may affect individuals, it is certainly, at preſent, not eaſy to ſay, what, in the long run, its effects may be on ſociety; but, it is evidently much altering the ſtate of mens minds, as well as that of the country; and we earneſtly pray, it may, in the iſſue, be equally beneficial and improving to both. With regard to their religious ſentiments, though the people be not leſs divided, we are happy to obſerve, they ſeem, in general, leſs prejudiced againſt one another than formerly; which proceeds, we believe, much, if not entirely, from the liberty of opinion, our excellent Conſtitution ſo happily affords to every well intentioned and reaſonable man.

of the ſame ſize: And that, allowing for the difference of climate in the uplands, the midlands, and the lowlands, ſeed time and harveſt, the modes of cropping, and the management of black cattle and ſheep, are nearly the ſame; and where there happens to be a diſtinction, that it more commonly proceeds from the ſkill and induſtry of individuals, than the general ſyſtem of conducting that kind of buſineſs in the different pariſhes. And, it is worthy of remark, that, with little exception, the ſame obſervation applies to the greater part of this diſtrict. This, the writer truſts, will be alſo his apology for having been particular in his account of other things, which though in themſelves, perhaps, not more intereſting, yet, from their ſpeciality, or having been overlooked, or but ſlightly noticed by others, he judged entitled to his attention.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF FOULIS WESTER.

(COUNTY OF PERTH, PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. MR STIRLING, *Minister of Crief.*

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THIS parish may take its name from the estate of Foulis, one of the principal baronies of which it is composed. The parish and estate receive frequently the additional title of *Wester*, to distinguish them from the parish and estate of Foulis *Easter*, also in Perthshire, but on the confines of the county of Angus. Both these estates are now the property of Sir William Murray of Ochtertyre. The latter, however, was not long since a part of the estate of Gray, and the former was more antiently part of the Earldom of Strathearn; but six or seven centuries ago, both of them were, in all probability, the property of some person of the name of Foulis, who gave his family name to his lands. The first of that name

name in Scotland is ſaid to have come from France, in the reign of Malcolm Canmore; and branches of that family became proprietors of extenſive baronies in different counties of Scotland, which from them ſtill retain the name of *Foulis*. The word ſeems to be derived from the French *feuilles*, that is, *leaves*; to which the three bay leaves, worn by perſons of the name of Foulis, on their arms, apparently allude. The names of moſt places in this part of the country being evidently of Gaelic derivation, ſome have imagined Foulis to be derived from the two Gaelic words *fòu lios*, that is, *below the orchard*. There is not, however, the ſmalleſt veſtige of an orchard near the village, much leſs in the grounds above it; and had the name been formed from the words now mentioned, it would probably have been accented on the laſt ſyllable, whereas the letter *i* is no more heard in the common pronunciation, than the final *e* in the word *feuilles*.

This pariſh lies in the north ſide of Strathearn, having that of Crieff on the W.; Monzie N. W.; Little Dunkeld N.; Moneidie N. E.; Methven E.; and on the S. Maderty, from which it is ſeparated by the *Pow*, excepting about 40 acres of Maderty, which are on the north ſide of that river. Foulis is eight miles long, and ſix broad. The great road from Perth to Crieff, an extent of 18 miles, enters it on the eaſt ſide, ten miles from the former of theſe towns, and leaves its weſtern extremity within two miles of the latter.

Face of the Country.—The ſoil in general is a red clay or till, which on ſome of the beſt cultivated farms, becomes blackiſh and loamy, by plenty of good manure. The ſoil is conſiderably deeper in the ſouth than in the north ſide of the pariſh. An high ridge running from Eaſt to Weſt along the top of what is called the braes of Foulis, divides it nearly into two equal parts. The lands on the ſouth ſide of that

ridge are by far the moſt valuable, and generally the beſt cultivated. The church ſtands in the centre of this diſtrict, and contiguous to it is the village, containing 44 families, who are all lodged in poor, low, thatched cottages, excepting the parochial ſchoolmaſter and principal inn-keeper, who have each a houſe, two ſtories high, covered with blue ſlate. The village can hardly be expected to emerge from its obſcurity, ſince the great road which lately paſſed through it, is now removed to the lower grounds, half a mile ſouthward. On the declivity of the high riſing lands, 400 yards weſt from the church, ſtands the manſe, which preſents a very extenſive proſpect to the South, Eaſt, and Weſt, and, ſurrounded with wide, unincloſed ſloping fields of moderate fertility, looks down on the richer plains below, as well as on an agreeable variety of grown trees, young plantations, and gentlemens ſeats, which, ſo far as they reſpect this pariſh, ſhall be noticed afterwards. There is not a ſixth part of the pariſh incloſed. The chief incloſures are in the South and South Eaſt quarters; moſt of them are not ſufficiently fenced for confining cattle; but the few that are fully incloſed, can be let for paſture at 2 l. an acre yearly. The northern diviſion beyond the high ridge above mentioned, is interſected by the river Almond, which reaches the pariſh at the bridge of Buchanty, waſhes its North border for half a mile, and then runs through it a courſe of two miles towards the Tay. This river abounds with a ſmall kind of trout, and 200 yards above the bridge now mentioned, forms a *curious caſcade*, which naturally attracts the travellers attention. From the top of the rock on the North ſide of the river to the ſurface of the water, where it begins to fall, is ſix feet, the fall itſelf is ſeven, and the pool into which it falls is ten feet deep. The bed of the river becomes deeper and more contracted as it advances to the

bridge

bridge, which consists of a single arch 15 feet wide, and, though on a level with the road, is 32 feet high above the surface of the water, which there becomes 14 feet deep; that is, while the river is in its ordinary state and not swelled by the rains While in this low state, also, the water at the cascade is, by the projection of a rock in the middle of the stream, divided into two parts, betwixt which it was usual, some time ago, to hang a *creel* or basket, by means of an iron chain, in such a manner as to catch multitudes of a kind of white trout, as they were called, or young salmon weighing about three pounds each. The fishes attempted to overleap the cascade, and hundreds that succeeded, have by rods and nets been taken above it in a summer; but, it is believed, the far greatest part, to the amount of sometimes 60 in a day, failing in the attempt, dropt into the basket for the benefit of the principal heritor. This advantage, however, has been entirely lost for ten years past by the building of a mill-dam at Cromwell Park, in the parish of Methven, since which, none of that species has been found in this part of the river. Excepting a few trees about some farm houses, and a Scotch fir plantation of three acres, nothing appears to have been planted on the North side of the river; but the South bank on the estates of Abercarney and Gorthie, was, at least 30 years ago, planted with stripes of coppice wood, in which ash, and especially oak and birch are prevalent. These, with the additions more lately made, may extend to 16 acres. The largest plantations formed within these 12 years, are on the heights of the ridge formerly described, where some hundred acres have been planted with Scotch fir, interspersed with some oak, birch and larix.

The hills or moors on both sides of the Almond contain several tracts of black moss, which supply most of the people

ple with their principal fuel; but the more induſtrious tenants in the South part of the pariſh, uſe few peats except in drying their corns for the mill, chooſing rather to carry coals from Blairngone, which is twenty miles diſtant. The uſual cart load is 30 ſtones, Tron weight; this they purchaſe at 1 s. ½d. The ſame quantity of Engliſh or other imported coal at Perth, would coſt 3 s., otherwiſe the eaſy carriage thence would command a preference.

Heritors.—The number of heritors, with the names and comparative worth of their eſtates within the pariſh, will appear from a view of their valued rents here ſubjoined.

Heritors.	Estates.	val. rent.
Moray of Abercarney,	Abercarney,	L. 3026
Moncrieff of Moncrieff, bart.	Gorthie,	1598
Murray of Ochtertyre, bart.	Foulis Weſter,	1500
Smith, Lord Methven,	Keillar,	1270
Drummond of Logie Almond,	Logie,	549
Maxton of Cultoquhey,	Cultoquhey,	362
Robertſon of Lawers,		118
Grame of Inchbreakie,	Pitnaclerach,	83
	The whole valued rent is,	L. 8506 Scots.

The real rent will amount to 4000 l. and is paid with the price of near 6000 bolls of oat meal and barley, annually exported to Perth, Crieff, and the Highlands.

The firſt of theſe heritors is patron of the pariſh, and has his principal ſeat in it. The houſe of Abercarney having received various additions in different ages, as fancy ſuggeſted, or conveniency required, is leſs remarkable for the elegance of its architecture, than for the very extenſive and complete accommodation, which it affords: But the numerous fenced fields, gardens, and plantations around it, excite equally

equally the ideas of richneſs and beauty. The imagination is exceedingly delighted with the approach deviſed by the preſent proprietor, while, after paſſing for 500 yards through a large plantation, along the ſide of a deep den, in which a conſiderable ſtream occaſionally appears, through the overſhadowing trees and ſhrubs, with which its ſteep banks are plentifully ſtored, and then retiring obliquely 300 yards farther under a ſhady grove, it preſents in ſucceſſion to the view, the wide ſloping lawns, the venerable oaks, the pleaſing caſcades, and fanciful lakes, which adorn and diverſify the ſcene.

Near two miles to the North-Weſt of this ancient manſion, is the houſe of Cultoquhey, the ſeat of the only other reſiding heritor, which, with the delightful adjoining wood, ſtruck the eye of every traveller with peculiar pleaſure, while the public road lay about 800 yards diſtant to the South. But ſince the high way has been conducted by the North ſide of the houſe, theſe beautiful objects appear with leſs advantage.

Beſides theſe two, the houſe of Gorthy is the only one in the pariſh, in which an heritor has at leaſt occaſionally reſided; that, however, is now deſolate, the eſtate having lately gone by purchaſe into another family.

Antiquities.—About a mile Eaſt of the church, on the farm of Caſtleton, part of the eſtate of Foulis, and on the Eaſt ſide of a den or ravine, which divides that from the eſtate of Abercarney, appear the remains of a fort or caſtle, the ſeat of the ancient Earl of Strathearn. The ruins now form a graſſy mount, conſtantly employed as a paſture field. Here reſided Mallus, Maliſius, or Maliſe, the firſt Earl of Strathearn, who lived in the reign of Alexander I. His grandſon Gilbert, in the year 1200, founded the monaſtery of Inchaffray, whoſe ruins ly contiguous to the South border of this pariſh.

Beſides

Beſides the firſt Earl above mentioned, there were three other Earls of Strathearn, who ſucceeded each other, of the name of Maliſe; but none of that family ſeem to have aſſumed any ſurname. The ſeventh Earl, alſo named Maliſe, died without iſſue, after marrying Joanna, daughter of Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, who, in 1320, was concerned in a plot againſt Robert I. for which, according to ſome accounts, ſhe was condemned to perpetual impriſonment, and the Earldom forfeited. But Mary, aunt of the laſt mentioned Earl, had married Sir John Moray of Drumſargard, who got with her the lands of Abercarney and others. Her ſon, Sir Maurice Moray, is ſaid to have been the laſt Earl of Strathearn, and was, with David II. and many Scotch noblemen, taken priſoner at the battle of Durham, in 1346. Hence the preſent heritor of Abercarney, deſcendent of the ſaid Sir Maurice Moray, is regarded as the lineal heir and repreſentative of the ancient Earls of Strathearn.

Population.—By Dr Webſter's liſt, in 1755, the population was rated at - - - - 1706
In 1770, the number of ſouls was about - 1100
In 1794, the ſouls now are - - 1224
Males, - - 608
Females, - - - 616
Births annually about - - 40
Burials do. - - - 25

Among the heads of families there are,

Butchers -	2	Wrights	10
Fiddlers - -	2	Taylors - -	10
Inn-keepers -	5	Weavers - -	50
Shop-keepers -	7	Farmers -	106
Shoemakers - -	9	Beſides	
Smiths - -	9	Small do. -	63

The

The tradeſmen do not fully ſupply the pariſh with the commodities in which they deal. The weavers, however, beſides the linen and coarſe woollen ſtuffs they made for the inhabitants, began, a few years ago, to be much employed in working *ſcrims*, a thin narrow linen for the Glaſgow market. This manufacture ceaſed all at once, on the commencement of the war January 1793; and as ſuddenly revived, about June 1794, on the capture of ſome of the French Weſt India iſlands, and the ſpeculation thereby excited among the Glaſgow traders.

Farmers, Agriculture.—Of the farmers, three have ſheep farms: The largeſt of theſe contains 1300 acres, feeds 600 ſheep, and yields 75 l. of yearly rent. The ſheep are of the black faced Linton breed, and of a ſmall ſize; their fleeces do not exceed two pounds weight each, and ſell from 8 s. to 13 s. a ſtone. A ewe and lamb may bring 7 s. 6d, and a ſheep at Michaelmas, 6s. 6d.

Thoſe in the preceding article ſtiled ſmall farmers, are ſuch as cannot yoke a plough without the aid of their neighbours, and generally pay under 8 l. each for their poſſeſſions, which rarely exceed 8 or 10 acres. They are commonly either tradeſmen, or work with a horſe, in buying and carrying meal, yarn and other commodities. Moſt of the other tenants or farmers pay from 15 l. to 30l.; eleven from 50l. to 175 l., and one 300 l. of yearly rent. Thoſe who pay the largeſt rents, give almoſt univerſally more for an acre than thoſe who pay ſmaller ſums. The rents per acre vary from 1 l. 5 s. and upwards, to 15 s. 13 s. 10 s. and 7 s. Yet the mere circumſtance of enlarging the farms is far from being the ſole cauſe of their paying more rent by the acre; for the higheſt rented are ſuch as have for a long time been brought into the beſt ſtate of cultivation, and have alſo ge-

nerally the beſt natural ſoil; whereas, all the farms that pay a low rent per acre, have ſtill a conſiderable quantity of ground either waſte or very little cultivated. The richeſt lands are in the South Eaſt quarter of the pariſh, eſpecially ſuch as are liable to be overflowed by the water of the *Pow*, or had been formerly covered with it before the drain was formed. Of theſe, there may be ſome hundred acres, ſo enriched with mud and ſlime, as conſtantly to yield plentiful crops without any manure, provided the ſeaſon be moderately dry. Tradition ſays, 36 bolls of oats have been produced on an acre of that richeſt land; this, however, is much doubted, as the greateſt quantity produced of late years is 16 bolls, and that too very rarely, and only when the ſeaſon is peculiarly favourable; for the average produce of the beſt land cannot be reckoned more than 8½ or 9 bolls. Even this very rich land requires a boll of ſeed to an acre; for though a few pecks will fill the ground with ſtraw, yet thin ſowing never ripens equally, and if very thin, the greateſt part will not ripen at all.

On an acre of ordinary good dry land, 5 firlots, or rather 18 pecks of oats are ſown; of bear or barley, ſometimes 10, but more frequently 12 pecks. The produce of the oats is 5, and of the barley 6 bolls, at an average. A crop of clover and rye-graſs yields from 100 to 250 ſtones of hay, which in Auguſt may ſell at 4d. in the following April, May, or June, ſome times at 10d. a ſtone; but the average price for a courſe of years, is 5½d. The moſt common mode of rotation of crops obſerved by the beſt farmers on the richeſt lands is, 1. oats; 2. green crop of turnip or potatoes; 3. barley and graſs ſeeds; 4. hay; 5. paſture. On lands of inferior quality the modes are exceedingly various, but the moſt common, is, 1. oats; 2. barley; 3. green crop with dung; 4. barley with graſs ſeeds; 5. hay: 6. and 7. paſture. The chief

manures

manures are ſhell-marle, when it can be obtained, and lime; but three times more lime is uſed than marle. Formerly theſe manures were moſt commonly laid on while a field was in graſs; but of late years much more generally on ſummer fallow; and the liming or marling is repeated after ten, or at moſt twelve years. The ſoil being generally heavy, an acre requires from 60 to 90 bolls of marle; 70 may be the average, but the greateſt quantity has been found moſt profitable. The marle a few years ago was got within a mile or two, at 6d. a boll, and then 2000 bolls have in one year been carried to a farm of leſs than 150 acres, and 1500 with 150 of lime to another. That fund, however, is now exhauſted, and marle at 10d. a-boll, muſt be got at 6 miles diſtance. At Perth may be bought Engliſh lime at 2s; Burntiſland at 2s. 2d; or Lord Elgin's at 1s. 9d. all wheat meaſure, of which a ſingle horſe cart carries 3 bolls. From 24 to 40 bolls of ſhells, that is, unſlacked lime, are laid on an acre, and 1500 bolls are ſaid to have been carried in a year to one of the largeſt farms of near 300 acres. Perhaps the beſt managed farms are ſuch as extend from 120 to 200 acres. On one of 150 may be kept eight work horſes, three or four young ones, and between 40 and 50 black cattle, old and young. The value of a draught horſe is from 15l. to 25l. Four were generally yoked in a plough, 20 years ago; but two horſe ploughs now almoſt univerſally prevail, and ſingle horſe carts are preferred to double ones. Few of the cattle were fed for ſlaughter, moſt of them are ſold under 3 or 4 years old; and 8 or 10, value 4l. or 5l. each, are kept as milk cows: And as the calves are all reared, and others purchaſed inſtead of ſuch as happen to die, the butter and cheeſe ſold from one cow, cannot exceed 1l. yearly. A farm of this ſize requires four men, two boys, and two female ſervants. The year's fee of a principal man ſervant is 10l.; that of an inferior man, 7l. or 8l.

to boy's, from 1l. to 3l.; a female ſervant's, 2l. 10s or 3l. with the produce of a lippie of lintſeed ſown. A conſiderable number of additional ſervants is neceſſary in harveſt; a man ſhearer in that ſeaſon gains 1l. 10s. or 2l.; and a woman, 18s. or 1l. Many farmers have what are called *cottars*, to whom they give a cottage and ſmall garden, with ſometimes an acre of land, and a cow's graſs, for which the cottar pays 3l. or 4l. if he has two acres; and 10s. more, if his land is ploughed by the tenant. But no cottar gets any land except on condition of working with the farmer for reaſonable wages, whenever required, eſpecially in harveſt. Such a farmer's family as that now deſcribed, feed chiefly on oat meal, barley meal, potatoes, milk and cheeſe. What animal food they uſe is from Michaelmaſs to Whitſunday, and conſiſts of one bullock ſalted for winter beef, one hog in ſpring, and between 20 and 24 quarters of mutton purchaſed occaſionally through the year. Though the tenants are all decently clothed, and their circumſtances, upon the whole, tolerably eaſy and more plentiful than formerly; yet they are far from being affluent, or in a ſituation that raiſes them above the neceſſity of manual labour. It is ſomewhat ſurprizing that there is not in the pariſh a tenant, though paying 100l. or even 300l. of yearly rent, that acts merely as a director and over-ſeer of his ſervants; but all of them, ſo far as health and ſtrength allow, work proportionably with their own hands. The labour, the rents, and all the expences of the tenants, are double what they were 25 years ago. Then a principal man ſervant had only 4l. 10s. or at moſt 5l. an inferior man 2l. 10s. or 3l. and a female ſervant 1l. or 1l. 5s. Since, however, ſuperior ſkill and induſtry now raiſe a crop of double value, they, as well as the public, are real gainers by the improvements lately attained. They have alſo the unſpeakable advantage of being more ſecure and independent by the leaſes which

which all of them now hold, and are commonly granted for 19 years; and likewiſe by their releaſe from various burdens formerly impoſed. On ſeveral of the greateſt eſtates, the tenants were then, or a few years earlier, bound to carry out the dung, to plow and harrow all the lands poſſeſſed by the heritor (whom they all called, and ſtill through habit call their maſter, but more frequently the laird) to cut, dry, and carry home his peats, and all the coals uſed by his family; to cut, win, and ſtack his hay; to cut down, carry home, and ſtack corns; to carry bark and farm meal to any unlimited diſtance where the factor ſold theſe articles, but rarely above 12 or 20 miles; to go each in their turn with a horſe or cart to Perth or Crief, or longer journies when required, and all at their own charge, without any allowance of food for man or beaſt.

Theſe ſervices were emphatically ſtiled *bondage*, particularly the manual labour at peats, hay, and harveſt; working with a horſe was called *carriage*; and theſe two ſpecies of labour, were, in the old tack, diſtinguiſhed by the names of *harrage* and *carrage*. One heritor has ſome of his tenants ſtill bound to part of theſe ſervices, ſuch as winning and ſtacking hay, ſhearing in harveſt, and carrying coals and lime to a certain extent; but the other heritors require no ſervices, except the carriage of coals and bark. Moſt of the tenants are now likewiſe releaſed from the ſervitude of *thirlage*, by which they were obliged to grind at a particular miln, and to pay very high duties. There are five corn milns in the pariſh, belonging to different heritors, and each heritor has relieved his own tenants from the high duties, on dividing among them the old miln rent. To theſe the miln duties amount to about the 30th peck; a few tenants that are ſtill bound to a miln on another eſtate, pay at leaſt a twelfth part of what they grind at it.

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As the ſoil is generally too cold and moiſt, and the grain therefore ripens ſlowly, the tenants are liable to ſuffer immenſe loſs by a rainy ſeaſon. Thus, in 1792, the whole crop could only pay that ſmaller portion of the rent that is uſually paid in meal: and though ſome ſold a few bolls out of the pariſh that year, twice as much was purchaſed by other tenants for domeſtic conſumpt.

Quarries.—The houſes of the tenants are generally one ſtory high, thatched with ſtraw. Two farm houſes of one ſtory, and four of two ſtories high, are covered with blue ſlate; and two of one ſtory, with grey ſlate. It might be expected that many more would have ſlated roofs, ſince both kinds of ſlate now mentioned are found in the pariſh. On the eſtate of Logiealmond, is a valuable blue ſlate quarry, let at 50 guineas yearly; from which 500,000 ſlates are ſuppoſed to be ſold annually, at 13s. 4d. the thouſand. On the lands of Abercarney and Foulis, are quarries of grey ſlate, that is, a kind of light brown freeſtone, which riſes in broad ſhelves, of an inch thick, is eaſily cut with the ſlater's knife, and makes a pretty good, though heavy roof. As theſe quarries were never wrought to any great extent, no rent is paid for them, but a thouſand ſlates may be quarried for 1l. 10s. which will cover as much of a roof as 6l. value of the blue ſlate above mentioned. That roof, however, will be greatly inferior in elegance and duration. Near the entry to the houſe of Abercarney, is an inexhauſtible quarry, of a beautiful and excellent ſtone for building; and, on the Cultoquhey eſtate, is a quarry of the beſt ſtone for pavement in all the country, which being ſoft while in its natural moiſt ſtate, ſhapes eaſily, and 20 years ago, might be quarried, cut, and laid at 2d. a foot; but the price is now nearly doubled.

Highway.

Highway.—The greateſt improvement lately made in the pariſh, is the conſtruction of the new line of road leading through it from Perth to Crieff, which is every where at leaſt 35 feet broad, and has in no part a greater riſe than of one foot in 50. Whereas, the old line, which led cloſe by the church, and over the brae of Foulis, frequently roſe at the rate of more than one in ten feet. The making of this new road, from Methven to Gowan hill, in this pariſh, coſt 260l. each mile, and from that point weſtward, 239l.; beſides bridges, the largeſt of which is not yet founded; and the ſmaller ones have been executed at 1l. each foot in width: beſides alſo the filling up of dens or ravines, the largeſt of which alone coſt 130l. Where the bottom is beſt, or materials neareſt, it may be kept in repair at 2l. a mile; but the greateſt part of it is to be upheld three years, at 4l. a mile annually. The expence of making has been ſo great, and the reſort of travellers hitherto ſo ſmall, that the duties collected at the toll-bar, firſt erected in 1793, though ſomewhat higher than in other counties of Scotland, are not ſufficient to pay the intereſts of the ſums expended.

Poor, Religion, Character.—The poor, who are under the neceſſity of begging, are not very numerous; but no ſtated contribution, nor any aſſeſſment being made by the heritors for their ſupport, they cannot be ſufficiently ſupplied, or begging prevented, by the ſmall funds allotted to their uſe. Thoſe conſiſt of the collections at the church door, amounting to 3s. weekly; 2s. from every bride in the pariſh; and the annual rent of 70l. By far the greateſt number of beggars come from other pariſhes. There are commonly two ſchools, beſides that of the parochial ſchoolmaſter. He has from the heritors 200 merks Scots of ſalary, with a free houſe and garden. His wages from the ſcholars may be

be at an average 1s. 6d. a quarter; and his emoluments as ſeſſion clerk do not exceed 4l. annually. The miniſter, beſides a manſe and a glebe of ſeven acres, has between 70l. and 80l. of ſtiped; the preſent incumbent, however, being poſſeſſed of heritable property in a neighbouring pariſh, and having the comfort of his pariſhioners much at heart, charges himſelf with the maintenance of an aſſiſtant for their ſatisfaction; while at the ſame time he has never ſhewn the leaſt reluctance to the perſonal diſcharge of every part of the miniſterial office. The people, therefore, are univerſally attached to the Eſtabliſhed Church, except nine families, whoſe heads and children are Antiburghers, except alſo the two reſiding heritors, who are of the Epiſcopal communion. Were theſe heritors of the ſame religious profeſſion as the vulgar, it would probably be the occaſion of removing a grievance of which the people have long with too much reaſon complained—that no care is taken to render the parochial church decent or commodious. The walls and roof, indeed, are kept in tolerably good repair; but it is badly lighted, and the ſeats and galleries have, for many years, been in a very ruinous condition. The people are in general devout as well as ſober and induſtrious, lovers of peace, and well affected to government. If, in any inſtance, they have manifeſted rather leſs zeal than ſome others for the ſupport of law and good order, ſuch apparent coolneſs is by no means to be attributed to any diſcontentment with our happy Conſtitution; but merely to an averſion at any avocation which they apprehend might interfere with that cloſe application to their own proper employments, which through their habits and circumſtances they find both agreeable and neceſſary.

The inhabitants of the northern half of the pariſh commonly uſe among themſelves the Gaelic tongue; all of them however, can ſpeak Engliſh, which is the only language ſpo-

ken

ken or underſtood on the ſouth ſide of the hill. Though there are no remarkable inſtances of longevity, yet the people in general are abundantly healthy. Conſumptions ſometimes occur, and the jaundice has been more frequent of late than ever known; but agues, which were very prevalent 20 years ago, have, for a long while, entirely diſappeared.

There is at Fowlis, on the 6th of November annually, a market for black cattle. About 1000 may be preſented for ſale, and a third part of them ſuppoſed ready for ſlaughter.

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF AVOCH.

(PRESBYTERY OF CHANONRY, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ROSS.)

By the Rev. MR JAMES SMITH.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

IN old records, the name is written *Avach* or *Auach.* It is commonly pronounced *Auch.* The moſt probable derivation is from a Gaelic word, ſignifying a *ford* or *ſhallow water.* For the bay, oppoſite to the pariſh church, being more ſhallow, the tide flows and recedes farther than in any other part of this ſide of the Moray Frith, between the bays of Cromarty and Munlochy. This pariſh is ſituated in the preſbytery of Chanonry, in the ſynod and county of Roſs. It is one of the eight pariſhes comprehended within the ancient diſtrict of *Ardmeanach,* or the *Black Iſle*; ſo called, becauſe the whole make a peninſula, of which the greater part continues ſtill black uncultivated moor, though a good deal has been planted and improved of late.

Avoch

Avoch extends about 2½ Engliſh miles from Eaſt to Weſt, and 4 from South to North, and is nearly of a rhoimboidal form. It is bounded by the pariſh of Roſemarky towards the Eaſt; by the Moray Frith and that branch of ſame Frith called Munlochy bay, on the South-Eaſt, South, and South-Weſt; by the united pariſhes of Kilmuir Weſter and Suddie, on the Weſt; by Urquhart or Ferrintoſh on the North Weſt, and by the united pariſhes of Cullicudden and Kirkmichael on the North. It marches with theſe laſt on the large hill called Mulbuy, which extends nearly the whole length of the Black Iſle, from Cromarty to Beauley.

Surface and Soil.—This pariſh conſiſts chiefly of two ridges of hills, of a moderate altitude, and pretty broad on the top, running nearly parallel to each other, in a direction from Eaſt to Weſt, with a gently ſloping vale on the North ſide of each, and part of the Mullbuy, formerly mentioned, riſing behind all theſe towards the North. So that it preſents, in a manner, three banks or faces to the beneficial influence of the ſouthern ſun, and enjoys all the varities and advantages of hill and dale: The ſouthern expoſures being in general beſt adapted for corn-farms; the northern, for wood, and the valleys, for paſture.

Almoſt every variety of ſoil is to be met with here. Towards the ſhore it is light and ſandy, as uſual, particularly in ſome of the lower grounds near the bay and ſea town of Avoch; where, on digging two or three feet deep, a ſtratum of ſea ſhells has been found in different places. This would ſeem to indicate that the Frith had once over-flowed thoſe grounds to a farther extent that it ever does now. To the Weſtward of this, on both ſides of the Southern vale, the ſoil is generally a light loam, or loam mixed with clay, fer-

tile enough. Farther Weſt, there is a deep rich clay, particularly on that fine extenſive bank of the Mulbuy, called Auchterflow. In the Northern vale, there is a good deal of moſs, on a tilly or clay bottom, of a bad quality and generally wet, which can ſcarcely be cultivated to advantage. The hill tops conſiſt chiefly of a black ſandy ſoil, covered with poor ſhort heath, and a few moor ſtones intermixed, much better adapted for plantations of the Scots fir, than for paſturage.

Climate.—The air is generally dry and healthy, though, comparatively ſpeaking, few of the inhabitants attain to old age. But this ſeems more owing to their habits of life, than to the climate. No diſeaſe can be ſaid to be particulary prevalent. Fevers and the ſmall-pox have, indeed, at times, made conſiderable ravages. This, however, can be eaſily accounted for, from the people's want of cleanlineſs, and their exceſſive uſe of ſpiritual liquors.

Sea Coaſt,—its Advantages and Productions.—The Northern part of Scotland derives many advantages from thoſe beautiful arms of the ſea, with which it is interſected. Of theſe the pariſh of Avoch is not without its ſhare. The frith waſhing it nearly on two ſides, makes the air much more ſalubrious; without thoſe fogs and that piercing coldneſs, which the inhabitants of the Eaſt coaſt of Scotland complain of, from the neighbourhood of the German Ocean. It alſo makes the ſnows ſooner melt in winter; and prevents immoderate heat in ſummer, by that agreeable and refreſhing coolneſs, which every flowing of the tide ſends forth. It affords likewiſe employment for many of the inhabitants, and adds to the proviſion of the whole. †

Springs, &c.

† On one half of the bay of Avoch, from the Craig Burn, (which divides

Springs &c.— There is great abundance of excellent ſprings throughout all this pariſh. Some of them have a mineral tint; but have not become remarkable for the cure of any diſeaſes. A well, called Craiguck, iſſuing from a rock

vides this pariſh from Fortroſe and Koſemarky) to the eaſt end of the Seatown of Avoch, the coaſt is high and roky. But few of thoſe rocks extend into the ſea, ſo as to be dangerous for boats: And there is for the moſt part a fine ſoft beach at the foot of them. From thence to Caſtletown Point, the ſhore is flat and ſandy. There is good anchorage for ſhipping; and veſſels of from 40 to 100 tons may lie to ſafely on the Seatown beach, to deliver and receive cargoes, unleſs there be a ſtrong gale from South or South-Eaſt. From Caſtletown Point Weſtward to the mouth of Munlochy bay, the coaſt is bold and rocky, and there is more depth of water. Along the ſaid bay to the weſtern boundary of this pariſh, it is generally high, and conſiſts of ſand and gravel, with ſome large rocks interſperſed.

Even thoſe rocks have turned out advantageous. For in Munlochy bay there is an excellent quarry of hard reddiſh freeſtone, acceſſible to boats on the water-edge. Out of this quarry almoſt the whole of the extenſive works of Fort George were built. The late Mr Matheſon of Bennetsfield, proprietor of the grounds, let the quarry to Government, or to the undertaker employed by Government, at the ſmall ſum of 10l. a-year, while that fortification was going on. A cheap contract, indeed, if we conſider the immenſe quantity of material furniſhed? For 20 or 30 boats, beſides ſeveral ſloops, were conſtantly employed in conveying it.

The quarry is now wrought chiefly for builders at Inverneſs, who, though there be 5 or 6 miles of water-carriage, find this their eaſieſt ſupply. And two boats of 10 or 11 tons burden each, are almoſt daily engaged in the buſineſs; which, with the quarrying work, yields a pretty good ſubſiſtence to eight or ten families in this pariſh, beſides a rent, or profit of about 30l. Sterling yearly, to the proprietor. A boat's cargo of the ſtone fetches at Inverneſs, 16s. or 17s.

The Moray Frith at Avoch, is about four miles broad. And a finer baſon is ſcarcely to be ſeen in the North. To an obſerver on this ſhore it has all the appearance of a beautiful lake. For Chanonry point from the North, and that of Arderſier from the South-Eaſt, appear like projected arms to claſp each other, and to break off its connection with the ſea, while the point of Inverneſs, and the hills in that neighbourhood, ſeem to bound it in like manner in an oppoſite direction. The town of Inverneſs, at the one end, and

Fortroſe

rock near the ſhore of Bennetsfield is reſorted to in the month of May, by whimſical or ſuperſtitious perſons, who, after drinking, commonly leave ſome threads or rags tied to a buſh in the neighbourhood. But if they derive benefit from this, it would ſeem to be more owing to their own credulity, than to any effect of the water, which differs nothing in taſte or appearance from common.

In the ſouthern vale, there is a fine rivulet, called the burn of Avoch; perhaps the largeſt ſtream in Ardmeanach; which riſes moſtly in this pariſh, drives three corn-mills, and empties itſelf into the ſea near the church. It produces the common trout and eel. Its mouth makes a ſafe harbour or retreat for the fiſhing boats in time of ſtorm: And here a good

Fortroſe and Fort George at the other, add much to the landſcape. From a boat in the middle of the Frith, oppoſite to Culloden-houſe and the bay of Avoch, the view is ſtill grander and more embelliſhed.

Since the important æra of 1746, the trade of Inverneſs, and of the other towns on this Frith, has been gradually increaſing and flouriſhing. It employs now more than ſix times the former number of veſſels: ſome of which may be ſeen here paſſing and repaſſing almoſt every day.

But the chief benefit of the Frith to this pariſh, is that of the Fiſheries. Here are caught herrings during their ſeaſon; whitings, flounders, ſprats, a few oyſters and crabbs, with abundance of muſsles, quilks, and ſmall fry for bait. There might be a ſtell-fiſhing for ſalmon, near Caſtletown point: But as the ſhore is not altogether convenient for drawing the net, it has not been much tried. Some ſmall whales, purpoiſes, and ſnipe fiſh, come up now and then. About 50 years ago, haddocks were frequently caught within a mile of Avoch. But they have ſince quite diſappeared. They ſeem to have retreated Eaſtward to the wider parts of the Frith, towards Tarbat point and the coaſts of Moray and Caithneſs. Nor have they been got there for ſeveral years paſt in ſuch plenty as before, until this ſummer, (1793) when the fiſhermen have had good ſucceſs, and found them again about the mouth of marty Bay.

There is ſome quantity of ſea weed on different parts of the ſhore. A little of it has at times been burnt into kelp. The neighbouring farmers chiefly uſe it as a manure for barley. It is very beneficial for this purpoſe, whether laid on green, or rotted in the dunghill.

good ſpecies of red trout is taken, from 15 to 18 inches long.

Minerals.—A ſmall lake, called *Scaddin's Loch*, near the eaſtern boundary of this pariſh, was drained ſome yeras ago. In its bed, a good many peats have been dug; and under them appears a large ſtratum of ſhell marle. It is believed, that limeſtone alſo might be found, on a proper ſearch, as ſeveral pieces of it are to be ſeen frequenty in the channel of the burn. Free-ſtone quarries have been wrought on different grounds, beſides that in the bay of Munlochy: particularly, one of a deep red colour on the farm of Arkandeith, out of which it is believed that the cathedral church of Roſs at Chanonry was built, many centuries ago;— as a conſiderable excavation has evidently been made, and no other rock of the colour uſed there, is known in this part of the country.

State of Property.—There are five heritors; but only one reſides.—Sir Roderick M'Kenzie of Scatwell, Baronet, proprietor of two thirds of the pariſh.

His ſeat of Roſehaugh-houſe ſtands on a beautiful bank, about a mile and a half from the ſea, on the north ſide of the ſouthern vale. It is a modern edifice, ſubſtantially built and commodious; and coſt between 3000l. and 4000l. Sterling. It is ſurrounded by rich fields in good cultivation, all well fenced, and ſkirted with woods of different kinds; beſides theſe, he has ſeveral thriving plantations of fir, in different parts of this, and an extenſive valuable property in other contiguous pariſhes.

On the ſame bank, about an Engliſh mile to the Eaſtward, is the houſe of Avoch, belonging to John Mackenzie, Eſq; where are good grounds, and ſmall patches and rows of aſh, birch

birch and Alder. But this houſe, and that of Bennetsfield, near the South-Weſt corner of the pariſh, belonging to Colin Matheſon, Eſq; have both been allowed to fall into diſrepair, as the proprietors of them reſide in other parts of the county.

One of the fineſt woods here is that called the Craigwood, * near Fortroſe, belonging to Mr Roſs of Cromarty. It contains moſt kinds of foreſt-trees, beautifully intermixed, on a rocky bank, by the ſea. It was all cut down about 30 years ago, for making paliſadoes and faſcines to Fort George, when they apprehended a viſit from Monſ. Thurot's ſquadron. It has ſince grown up finely from the roots anew.

* This wood makes part of the old eſtate of Roſehaugh, which belonged to the late celebrated Sir George Mackenzie, King's Advocate. The property is ſaid to have been ſo named from a ſmall haugh contiguous to the bank, where a great many ſweetbriars and wild roſes uſed to grow. The ground having been moſtly brought into tillage, they are not now ſo numerous. On this haugh, along the bottom of the wood, lies the road from Fortroſe to Avoch : And there can ſcarcely be imagined a more delightful ſummer evening's walk than this,—when, on one hand, the Weſtern ſun glitters through the trees,—the birches ſend forth their fragrance,—and the ſinging birds ſerenade you;—and, on the other hand, you behold the beautiful baſon before mentioned, with veſſels and boats plying upon it with cheerful induſtry. It is ſaid that Sir George Mackenzie was ſo fond of this walk, and of that on Chanonry point, which ſtretches out a mile and a half into the ſea, covered with ſhort cloſe graſs, as ſmooth and ſoft as a carpet, that he uſed to call it rudeneſs and want of taſte in any of his friends or acquaintances to ride on horſeback along them. The Right Hon. James Stewart Mackenzie, Lord Privy Seal, who ſucceeded to Sir George's eſtate in this county, ſold the lands of Roſehaugh to the late George Roſs, Eſq; of Cromarty, one of the moſt ſpirited improvers hitherto known in Ardmeanach. Mr Roſs gave good employment many years to a multitude of labouring people from all the neighbouring diſtricts. But, unfortunately for this pariſh, he died before he could get his plans of improvement extended ſo far.

A few years ago, Captain Kenneth Mackenzie of Newtown, another heritor, attempted to enlarge the beautiful ſcene of the Craigwood, by planting his part of the ſame bank to the weſtward. But as the rocks and ſteepneſs prevented him from getting proper fences made, his young trees have been moſtly

Agriculture, &c.—Though ſome parts of the pariſh have been meaſured, there is no regular ſurvey or map of the whole. It is believed, however, to contain about 6000 acres. Of theſe, from 1500 to 2000 may be under cultivation. But the whole produce will ſeldom exceed 5000 bolls; for among the tenants here, farming is only in a ſtate of infancy. It has emerged but little from the rude practice of their forefathers, a hundred years ago. Their horſes, in general, are miſerable poneys or garrons, bought at from 3l. to 5l. Sterling, each. Their cattle are a little better in proportion; but few of their ſheep are worth above 5s. per head. So bleak and bare, indeed, are the hill tops and muirs, that this pariſh is very little calculated for ſheep paſture. Their implements of husbandry are equally poor, except with a few more careful and induſtrious men, who, having got better garrons, begin of late to uſe the light chain plough, with curved mold board; and perhaps a coup-cart or two, or a ſmall wain for oxen on their farm. Their o-

moſtly deſtroyed by the neighbour's cattle and ſheep. Diſcouraged by this, he turned his attention next to the improvement of his farm; and has, with great expence and labour, made out above twelve acres new land, where never a blade of corn grew before. Induſtry of this kind is beneficial to one's country, and deſerves to be recorded.

The rent of land in the country part of the pariſh, including various cuſtoms and ſervices, amounts to from 12s. to 23s. per acre, according to the quality and expoſure: But, in the neighbourhood of the villages of Seatown and Kirktown, it pays in general from 25s. to 50s. And here ſome ſmall ſpots of garden ground are let at the rate of from 5l. to 8l. Sterling per acre. Theſe laſt, however, are generally poſſeſſed by ſeamen, ſhoemakers, and others, who keep no cattle, and muſt have a little ground for raiſing potatoes and greens to their families. Such high rents could not be paid by mere huſbandmen.

The total groſs rent of the pariſh is ſomewhat more than 730 bolls victual, and 900l. Sterling. The valued rent is 2531l. 6s. 4d. Scots.

ther utenſils are coarſe, being commonly made by the tenants own hand, with the help of ſcarcely any other inſtrument but the ax and adze, which ſome of them can uſe very dextrouſly.

There is no wheat raiſed in this pariſh. The prevailing crops are oats and peaſe, ſown in April; and bear, or bear and barley intermixed, which they commonly ſow in May. Since the year 1782, when the crop of oats in this pariſh failed ſo much, that ſcarcely any of them were fit for ſowing again, early oats of the Blainſley kind have been ſown for the moſt part on the late farms, particularly by the tenants of Auchterflow; where they anſwer ſo well, that farmers in ſimilar ſituations, over all this country, purchaſe from them for ſeed. The harveſt begins in general about the 20th Auguſt, and ends in October, ſooner or later, according to the drought or wetneſs of the ſummer, and the expoſure of the farms. But on ſome grounds near the ſhore, the ſeaſons are perhaps as early as in any corner of Scotland. For here a few tenants ſow barley the firſt or ſecond week of April, and reap it frequently in the end of July, or beginning of Auguſt. On theſe light grounds, a very ſimple rotation is practiſed, of barley and a green crop alternately. The green crop is peaſe or potatoes; for turnips, though a better preparative for barley, have not yet been introduced by the tenantry here.

In the higher and deeper grounds, no regular rotation of crops is followed, except on the heritor's own farms, where a good many of the modern improvements are practiſed with ſucceſs

The great aim of the country tenants, is to raiſe as much bear and barley as poſſible, which, finding a ready market with the highland diſtillers in Ferrintoſh and Redcaſtle, turns out to be the moſt profitable crop. Moſt of thoſe tenants

nants raiſe alſo a little flax. But, as they ſeldom have ground in proper heart for it, it anſwers poorly; nor is there a mill in Ardmeanach for dreſſing it. About 50 years ago, the culture of hemp was practiſed, to the extent of from 30 to 40 acres in this pariſh. But ſince the importation of that article has become more frequent, they do not now ſow a third part of the former quantity. More than 100 acres are now planted yearly with potatoes; which, beſides preparing the land for barley, are exceedingly uſeful in their families. Clay is much uſed over all this country as a manure. They mix it with the dunghills in ſummer, and ſpread it out on their light grounds intended for barley in the ſpring. They imagine it has a good effect in keeping out the ſummer heat and drought from hurting the roots of the corn. It may thus in ſome meaſure correct the ſoil, but the kind of clay uſed by many of them, can add very little to the vegetable food of plants. But the chief error of theſe tenants is, that they reſt little of their grounds, and theſe only when quite worn out; nor do they ſow any graſs ſeeds. This obliges them to ſend off moſt of their cattle to remote highland glens for the ſummer, where they loſe many of them, and their growth is much retarded. What a loſs muſt it alſo be to their farms, to be deprived of the dung of thoſe cattle for about five months of the year?

Such extreme backwardneſs in the ſtate of farming here, is occaſioned partly by the tenants own obſtinacy, that they will not follow good example ſet before them by the gentlemen farmers; partly by their poverty, as few of them can afford to purchaſe good utenſils or graſs ſeeds; but chiefly by the highneſs of their rents, the ſcarcity of ſervants, and the ſhortneſs of their leaſes: which in few caſes exceed 7, 8, or 15 years. Another bar to improvement is the neglect of winter herding. For from the end of harveſt to the middle of A-

pril, the tenants cattle paſture in common. And a man whoſe farm lies in a warm ſituation, and being in proper heart produces good foggage, cannot have the benefit thereof to himſelf, without either perpetual watching or incloſures, which he is not able to afford; but gets almoſt the ſubſtance eaten out of his grounds, by the neighbours cattle. Until theſe obſtacles, or at leaſt ſome of them, be removed, there can be little hope of ſeeing agriculture proſper in this diſtrict.

The number of horſes in the pariſh, including garrons, may be about 250, of cattle 480, and ſheep nearly 600.

Manufactures.—The principal branch conſiſts of coarſe linen and oſnabrugs, made entirely of flax raiſed by the tenants themſelves, ſpun in their houſes, and woven within the pariſh. This may bring in yearly, from 300l. to 500l. Sterling; and no foreign material is required, except a few caſks of Dutch lintſeed. There is alſo as much hemp raiſed and manufactured by the farmers, as ſuffices for ſails to the fiſhing boats. And the wool of the few ſheep, is all made into cloth and ſtockings at home for the peoples own wear. Among the villagers of Seatown, there is a good manufacture carried on of herring and ſalmon nets, moſtly from foreign hemp. Beſides ſupplying the fiſhery here, they ſell yearly from 150l. to 200l. value of theſe to Caithneſs, Lochbroom, and other fiſhing ſtations in the North. There was formerly a flouriſhing manufacture of ſhoes, from hides moſtly dreſſed at home, which employed about thirty hands in the ſmaller villages of Kirktown, Millhill, and Miltown. But the late laws, impoſing a heavy licenſe duty on tanners, have operated nearly as a prohibition to this article. Some of the ſhoemakers have left the place, others have become day labourers. And five or ſix, who remain at work, have now no apprentices, nor

can

can they make bread by it themſelves, owing to the high price of leather.

The *imports* into this pariſh, conſiſt of ſalt, iron, hemp, coarſe cloths, whiſky, a few grocery goods, and coals. The repeal of the duty on coals, will be an immenſe benefit in future years, as there are few peats to be got, and wood ſells too high for feuel.

The exports conſiſt of grain, cattle, herrings, and the manufactures formerly mentioned. Beſides ſupplying its own inhabitants, this pariſh diſpoſes of yearly to the neighbouring diſtillers, and the burghs of Fortroſe and Inverneſs, from 800 to 1000 bolls bear, and from 200 to 400 bolls of oats, peaſe, and meal, including what is ſent forth of the victual rents. Though the laſt crops (1792) was deficient in counties farther South, it was ſo plentiful in general throughout the Eaſtern half of Roſs-ſhire and Cromarty, that, after ſerving the people and the numerous ſtills, thoſe diſtricts have exported ſix or ſeven thouſand bolls.

Population.—If we may judge from concurring traditions, where no authentic record has been preſerved; and from a well known fact, that there are a third more dwelling houſes now in the pariſh of Avoch, than in the beginning of this century, the population muſt have increaſed conſiderably within that period Yet, by Dr Webſter's liſt in 1755, the population is ſtated at 1457; and by an accurate ſurvey made partly in 1792, and concluded ſpring 1793, the number of living ſouls was found to be 1380.

The church, which was built in 1670, and was probably made ſufficient to accomodate the pariſhioners, or at leaſt ſuch a number of them as might be expected to attend public worſhip regularly about that time, could not, in the way it was then fitted up, contain properly above 400 perſons.

no

No proper record of deaths or burials has been yet kept in this pariſh, but the average of them is believed not to exceed 30. The regiſter of baptiſms and marriages, previous to 1787, appears to have been ſo careleſsly and imperfectly made up, that no concluſions can be drawn from it with any degree of certainty. But of an exact regiſter for five years paſt, the following abſtract may be depended on.

Years.	*Baptized, viz.*			*Couples married.*
	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	
In 1788,	22	19	41	5
89,	23	21	44	6
90,	25	7	32	11
91,	23	28	51	10
92,	22	18	40	10
	115	93	208	42

Average Baptiſms of Males, 23.—Females nearly 19.—Total nearly of Baptiſms, 42.—Marriages, 8.

Other circumſtances reſpecting the population, may be gathered from its ſtate, in ſpring 1793, viz.

Number of inhabited houſes or families,	312
Average of perſons in a family,	$4\frac{11}{12}$
Males in the pariſh, - - -	622
Females, - - - -	758
Total of living ſouls, - -	1380

Diviſion of theſe by their ages.

Under 10 years, - -	313
'Twixt 10 and 20, - -	334
20 30 - -	228
30 40 - -	146
40 50 - -	139
50 60 - -	116

'Twixt 60 and 70	- -	65	
70	80 - -	30	
80	90 - -	9	
Inhabitants, in the Village of Seatown,		-	378
——————————— of Kirktown,		- -	99
——————————— of Milntown,		- -	80
——————————— in the country,		.	823
Heritor, reſiding,	- - -		1
Miniſter,	- - - -		1
Parochial Schoolmaſter,	- - -		1
Farmers, or tenants, paying from 20l. to 50l. ſterling of yearly rent,	- - -		32
———————————	5l. to 20l.		26
Crofters, - -	1l. to 5l.		42
Mailers, villagers, and Fiſhermens families, poſſeſſing only a houſe, or houſe and garden each, rented under 1l. ſterling,	- - -		209
Able Fiſhermen of 20, and not exceeding 50 years of age,	- - -		42
Shop-keepers,	- - -		3
Maſon, and 2 apprentices,	- - -		3
Quarriers, and Dykers, in the country,	- -		3
Houſe-carpenter, with 2 apprentices,	- -		3
Country Wrights and Coopers,	- - -		4
Boat-builders,	- - - -		4
Millers,	- - - - - -		3
Blackſmith,	- - -		1
Butcher,	- - - -		1
Taylors,	- - - - -		8
Weavers, with their apprentices, or looms employed,			22
Shoemakers,	- - - -		9
Quarriers, and quarry boatmen, at Munlochy bay,			10
Widowers,	- - - -		13

Widows,

Widows, - - - -	68
Married perſons, - - -	444
Of the Eſtabliſhed Church, - -	1362
Epiſcopalians, who occaſionally attend Coull's Chapel at Fortroſe, - - - -	4
Seceders, who commonly attend the Meeting-houſes at Inverneſs and Nairn, - -	14

N. B. Of the handycraftſmen ſpecified above, ſeveral have ſmall poſſeſſions of land, which occupy part of their time, particularly the weavers and ſhoemakers.

And of the mailers, villagers, and crofters in the country, a good many work in ſummer as day-labourers, and ſome go to the ſouth country for employment during the ſummer and autumn. Others of them, who have ſmall horſes or garrons, earn part of their livelihood, by cutting and bringing down fuel from the moors, to ſupply the Seatown.

Only one ſtill, of 30 gallons, is wrought in this pariſh, by a copartnery of the neighbouring farmers; and ſome of the tenants have ſhares alſo in another licenſed ſtill, in the adjoining pariſh of Suddy, or Knockbean.

There is not one ſurgeon, or attorney, or Roman Catholic, or Jew, or Negroe, or gypſey, or foreigner; nor any native of England, Ireland, or the Britiſh colonies, reſiding at preſent in this pariſh.

Fiſhery.—About the end of laſt century, there was only one fiſhing boat here, the crew of which reſided in the country. The village of Seatown, which contains at preſent 93† families, has been moſtly, if not entirely, built ſince that period, and the fiſhermen there are now equal to any in the North

† N. B. This number, beſides the Fiſhermen, includes alſo the families of widows, publicans, boat-builders, and other artificers who reſide among them.

North of Scotland, for hardineſs, ſkill, and induſtry, though their diſtance from the main ocean ſubjects them to many inconveniences.

From the beginning of October to the middle of March, they commonly fiſh for herrings in theſe upper parts of the Frith. Towards the end of March and in April, they go down along the coaſts of Moray and Caithneſs, for cod, ſkate, and haddocks. In May and June, ſome of them are engaged by the Northumberland Fiſhing company to catch lobſters for the London market, on the ſhores of Eaſter Roſs, about Tarbat-point. The others, during thoſe months, work at the haddock fiſhing, to ſupply the towns of Inverneſs and Fortroſe, and the Weſtern part of the Black Iſle. About the middle of July, all the able fiſhermen here go off to Caithneſs, and Lochbroom, for ſix or eight weeks, when the herring fiſhery at thoſe ſtations is commonly moſt favourable; and in good years they have been known to bring home from thence, 8l. or 10l. Sterling each man of nett gain.

They generally return in September, to prepare for the ſeaſon at home, which, owing to the ſmall depth, and clearneſs of this frith, begins only about the autumnal equinox, or a fortnight thereafter. The ſame cauſes oblige the fiſhermen, for the moſt part, to delay their work here till evening or night, as the herrings are then caught in much greater numbers, than during the day. In good ſeaſons, it is not uncommon for each boat to bring in the quantity of from 18 to 25 barrels in one night. When the ſhoal comes up in the end of June or beginning of July, the herrings prove generally beſt, and moſt plentiful.

In winter 1786-7, beſides thoſe uſed at home, five or ſix thouſand barrels were cured here for exportation; and ſeve-

ral ſloops alſo were diſpatched with full cargoes of unpacked herrings for Dunbar, and other towns on the eaſt coaſt.—Since that period, the ſucceſs in general has been poor at this ſtation, little more than what ſerved to ſupply the neighbouring country; except in ſpring 1792, when about 1100 barrels were exported. Laſt winter, the herrings were uncommonly ſcarce. And the preſent ſeaſon, 1793-4, though it promiſed well in autumn, has turned out but indifferently. There are not now (in February) 200 barrels packed.

The herrings found here are ſeldom ſo large as thoſe caught at Caithneſs, and Lochbroom, which makes it neceſſary for the men to provide a different ſet of nets of a ſmaller meſh and depth, than what they uſe at the former ſtations. Nor have any buildings as yet been erected at Avoch, for curing them in the red manner. The quantity of herrings ſufficient to pack a barrel when cured, is ſold here freſh, at from 3s. to 5s. 6d. according to the quality and the demand. And the middle-ſized, when fat, are reckoned much nicer, and more delicate eating, than larger ones, though they do not fetch ſo good a price at the London and other markets, being not accounted ſo fit for exportation to hot climates. But, if our beſt hands, at all the different ſtations in the north and weſt of Scotland, were provided with large and commodious buſſes, ſo that they could go out and continue fiſhing in deep water, and cure their herrings on board, in the ſame expeditious and careful manner that the Dutch do, this buſineſs might ſoon become much more advantageous to Great Britain than at preſent, and our fiſh become as ſaleable abroad as theirs! And the weaker and more indifferent hands would, at ſame time, find the better employment in continuing to catch for ordinary conſumption at home, from the ſmaller

ſhoals

ſhoals, which now and then come near to our ſhores, in the manner that all the hands do at preſent.*

* The Meſſrs Falls of Dunbar, were, for many years, the principal adventurers in the herring fiſhery here: And from them the Avoch men met with very good encouragement. Since the unfortunate failure of that old and reſpectable houſe, the Northumberland or Beadnel Fiſhing Company have taken up part of this buſineſs, in which an eſtabliſhed company, with a good capital, have a far better chance of ſucceſs than ſmall adventurers, who cannot afford to lay in a proper ſtock of ſalt and barrels, much leſs to keep them unuſed in unfavourable ſeaſons. At this ſtation, indeed, the herring fiſhing, on the preſent plan, has been found, for ſome years paſt, to be but a precarious concern. One ſucceſsful winter tempted many of the neighbouring ſhopkeepers to embark in it: And thoſe who did ſo with borrowed money, have moſtly become bankrupts ſince. To ſecure the important national benefits of this trade, every reaſonable encouragement ſhould be given to both the fiſhermen and curers.

The fiſhing boats uſed here are of a ſmall ſize; their keel being only 26 or 27 feet in length; the mouth from 30 to 32 feet long, and 10 feet wide.--- The depth is ſo proportioned to theſe dimenſions, as that they may ſail well, and may carry, beſides the crew and their fiſhing tackle, 3 or 4 tons ſafely. Six of theſe boats, wrought by ſeven men each, for the white fiſhing, and two or three ſmaller ones or yawls, occupied by old men and boys, belong to the place. During the herring ſeaſon, they fit out a good many more, as four men, with a boy to ſteer, ſerve this purpoſe, and they then hire ſome additional hands from the country. When the ſeaſon here proves ſucceſsful, the fiſhing boats of Nairn, Delnies, Campbeltown, and Petty, join them; and ſome likewiſe from Eaſter Roſs, Cromarty, Roſemarky, Fortroſe, and Keſſock; ſo that, even in this upper part of the Frith, 60 or 80 herring boats, containing above 300 men, may be ſeen at times, plying together on the ſame ſtream. But ſuch crowds are thought to be rather prejudicial to the buſineſs, in clear ſhallow water like this, as the herrings often ſuddenly diſappear from them, and it is ſtrongly ſuſpected, that a multitude of boats and nets tends to frighten them away.

The quantity of canvas carried by the Avoch men, and ſome others in this neighbourhood, is very much diſproportioned to the ſmall ſize and burden of their boats. The length of the maſt is generally above 30 feet. On this,

they

Wages and price of proviſions.—The following comparative ſtate, founded on good information, will ſhew the advance on

they hoiſt an immenſe oblong ſail, containing nearly 80 ſquar yards, or 700 ſquare feet of cloth. And they carry a foreſail beſides, on a pole at the boat ſtem, of the ſame oblong form, but only a tenth part of the ſize of the other. Their ſkill and alertneſs in ſetting and reefing thoſe ſails, according to the wind and weather, and the courſe they mean to purſue, are wonderful. Several gentlemen of the navy have expreſſed their ſurprize at this, and declared, that they have ſeldom ſeen common fiſhermen carry ſo great a proportion of ſail, or manage it more dextrouſly on any other part of the Britiſh coaſts. Yet there have been only four Avoch men drowned by their boats overſetting, ſince the fiſhery firſt began here. But, as they continue gradually to enlarge thoſe ſails, without increaſing the boats in proportion, it is to be feared that ſuch accidents may become more frequent among them. For there is undoubtedly, a *ne plus ultra* in this, as in all other human attempts.

In juſtice to the active enterpriſing ſpirit of thoſe honeſt men, we may add, that three of the Seatown crews having engaged in ſpring 1791, to fiſh for ſeveral months on the coaſt of Northumberland, coaſted it in their little open boats the whole way from Avoch to Beadnel, without either chart or compaſs, and returned home in like manner, with no other accident, except ſplitting one of their ſails. A long voyage this for ſo ſmall craft to undertake, if we conſider the different windings of the coaſt, which they muſt neceſſarily follow! What a pity, that ſuch men have not been regularly taught *navigation*, nor got larger veſſels to manage, for there is not a ſingle ſloop belonging to the place.

The former inconvenience may now be obviated by the academy lately eſtabliſhed at Fortroſe, which affords them an eaſy and near opportunity of getting their children better inſtructed than heretofore. And if, along with this advantage, Providence be pleaſed to favour them with three or four good fiſhing years in ſucceſſion, it is more than probable that ſome of the more careful and ſpirited young men may be perſuaded to unite and improve their gains, in fitting out two or three ſmall buſſes, or proper freighting ſloops for this craft, of 50 or 60 tons each; which could occaſionally be navigated by fewer hands than any of their preſent boats. Such ſloops might be employed to good advantage every herring ſeaſon on the bounty; and during the other months they would find abundant encouragement in carrying out car-

goes

on ſome eſſential articles of this nature, within 60 years paſt, in this diſtrict, viz.

	Common amount in 1734.	*Ditto in* 1794.
Wages of an able ploughman, or farm ſervant, per annum, ſterling, —	L. 1 13 4	L. 4 4 0
——— a Female ſervant, —	0 13 3	1 10 0
——— a day labourer, per diem, finding his own victuals, — —	0 0 4	0 0 9
——— a journeyman maſon, do. do.	0 0 11	0 1 10
——— a journeyman wright, do. do.	0 0 8	0 1 3
——— a taylor, do. do. —	0 0 5	0 0 9
	Common prices in 1734.	*Ditto in Spring* 1794.
Oatmeal, per boll, 9cwt. 9 ſtone, or 144lbs. Amſterdam weight, —	L. 0 8 10 2-3	0 16 0
Barley, or bear, per boll, (Linlithgow meaſure,) — —	0 9 0	0 18 0
Pottaoes per peck, (ditto 2 ſtreaks,)	not then ſold	0 0 6
Beef and veal, per lib. (Amſterdam weight,) about — —	0 0 1	0 0 2 1-2 to 3d.
Good Mutton, per do. do. about	0 0 0 3-4	0 0 3
Pork, per do. do. about —	0 0 1	0 0 2 to 2 1-2
Ducks, each, — —	0 0 3	0 0 8
Chickens, do. — —	0 0 2	0 0 4 to 6d.
Eggs per dozen, — —	0 0 0 3-4	0 0 1 1-2 to 2d.
Haddocks, per do. — —	0 0 1	0 0 9
Butter per ſtone, (of 21lbs. Amſterdam weight, — — —	0 5 0	0 12 0
Cheeſe, per do. — —	0 1 8	0 5 0 to 5s. 6d.
‖ Salt per peck, (Linlithgow meal meaſure or 14lbs. Amſterdam weight,	0 0 7	0 1 6

Roads

‖ Within the above period, the eſtabliſhment of a garriſon at Fort George, and the flouriſhing ſtate of Inverneſs, by greatly increaſing the demand, have tended

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goes of grain, when it could be ſpared, and bringing home coals, ſalt, lime, and other neceſſaries, to ſupply the increaſing demands of this part of the country

Roads and Bridges.—Not only in this pariſh, but over the whole of Ardmeanach, the roads have, for many years paſt, been

tended to raiſe the price of moſt kinds of proviſions here. Conſidering however the high rents now paid by the farmers, and the progreſſive advance on every thing elſe, thoſe preſent rates, on the whole, cannot be reaſonably complained of, except by ſuch perſons as have had narrow limited incomes, with no opportunity of improving them. One neceſſary article, *ſalt*, for home conſumption, has, indeed, been uncommonly ſcarce and high priced for ſome months, over all the north of Scotland; but for this, it is hoped, that the wiſdom of Parliament will ſoon provide a remedy. And the late repeal of the duty on coals carried coaſtways, though the advance on freight of ſuch a bulky article, prevents the benefit being ſo ſenſibly felt at preſent, muſt, when the war is over, be acknowledged a great relief, to a diſtrict ſo poorly poorly provided with other fuel as this.

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country. To promote and encourage ſuch a ſcheme, would unqueſtionably be the intereſt of both gentlemen and traders on both ſides of this Frith; as good ſeamen, having their home, or reſidence of their families here, could (*ceteris paribus*) afford to ſerve the neighbourhood on eaſier terms than ſtrangers: Beſides that, a great part of the money, which theſe diſtricts muſt neceſſarily pay for ſuch freights, would thus remain and circulate at home. There is likewiſe another important conſideration, that cargoes would be expoſed to leſs hazard of loſs or damage, under the care of ſeamen ſo well acquainted with moſt of the different harbours, rocks and ſend banks, in this long and tedious Frith.

No leſs remarkable are the inhabitants of this thriving village in general, for their induſtry and diligence. They manufacture, of the beſt materials they can procure, not only all their own fiſhing apparatus, but alſo a great quantity of herring and ſalmon nets yearly, for the uſe of other ſtations in the North and Weſt Highlands. From Monday morning to Saturday afternoon, the men ſeldom loiter at home 24 hours at a time, when the weather is at all favourable for going to ſea. And the women and children, beſides the care of their houſes, and the common operations of gathering and affixing bait, and of vending the fiſh over all the neighbouring country, do a great deal of thoſe manufactures. Some of their families alſo cultivate from a rood to half an acre of potatoes yearly for their own ſupply; and others, whoſe children are more advanced, raiſe and dreſs, for the herring nets, a good quantity

been as well attended to, and kept in as good repair, as in any part of Scotland, where turnpikes are not eſtabliſhed. At moſt places, where highways meet or interſect each other, direction-poſts have been fixed and kept up. In a country, where many of the inhabitants cannot ſpeak to a ſtranger in Engliſh, the importance of theſe is obvious. Part of one road here, 'twixt the Seatown of Avoch and Fortroſe, being liable to frequent incroachments of the ſea, proves exceedingly troubleſome and expenſive. A ſubſtantial repair to that, and a few ſmall bridges, are the principal things of this nature now wanted in the diſtrict. The county of Roſs, laſt year, eſtabliſhed a commutation of the ſtatute labour within their bounds, with a view, no doubt, to improve thoſe matters of police ſtill farther, by hiring able hands with the money and keeping ſteady ſurveyors over them. The rates charged are 1s. 6d. yearly from each man, liable to the ſtatute work; and 2s. 6d. more from the tenants, for the ſtrength of each plough. Theſe rates may be thought hard by ſome poor people, who have little ready money to command, and would rather give their work in the moderate way it uſed to be exacted. But every judicious farmer, or well employed mechanic, who conſiders the importance of a long ſummer day for carrying on his own work or improvements at home, will

tity of hemp. Even the aged and infirm employ themſelves as buſily as they can at making and baiting hooks, and mending nets, ſo that, except for a few days about Chriſtmas, or on the occaſion of a fiſher's wedding, there are none but little children idle in the whole Seatown. And this their induſtry turns out to good account; for they bring up and provide for their families decently in their ſphere. They pay honeſtly all the debts they contract in the country, and, conſidering the number of widows, and fatherleſs, and of infirm and aged perſons among them, very few of this village, except in caſes of great emergency, are found to ſolicit the aſſiſtance of either public or private charity.

will think it much more expedient to pay them. Whether this ſcheme, however, on the whole, ſhall more effectually promote the public good than the former, the county will be better enabled to judge, after ſome years experience.

Language.—Although moſt names of places, and many ſurnames of perſons here are evidently derived from the Gaelic, the inhabitants, in general, of this and the two neighbouring pariſhes, of Roſemarky and Cromarty, underſtand and uſe the Engliſh language. They ſpeak it alſo more purely, and with leſs of a provincial accent or drawl, than thoſe of many ſouthern counties in Scotland. Hence ſome have ſuppoſed them to be the deſcendents of a colony brought from ſome diſtant part of the kingdom, eſpecially as the common people in all the contiguous pariſhes around, ſpeak moſtly in Gaelic; and two-thirds of them underſtand no other tongue. Whereas, in this pariſh, there are only ſix or eight families unacquainted with the Engliſh language, and three-fourths of the pariſhioners uſe it in common. Nor has any Gaelic been preached in the church of Avoch ſince the beginning of this century, although one or two of the miniſters underſtood it perfectly, and could deliver their ſentiments in that language with fluency. The prevalence, however, of the Engliſh language in this corner, may be more eaſily accounted for, from the more frequent intercourſe of its inhabitants by both ſea and land, with thoſe of the ſouthern provinces.

The patronage of this pariſh belongs to Miſs Brodie of Lethen. The ſtipend, including an augmentation lately decreed, conſiſts of ſix chalders, part barley, part meal; 46l. Sterling, money; 6l. of converſion for the vicarage and fiſh tiends; and 5l. more for communion elements. The glebe, in three ſeparate ſpots, all arable, meaſures nearly ſix acres.

The church was new roofed, and otherwiſe improved in 1792. The manſe, built in 1672, has undergone ſeveral reparations ſince, and is now a comfortable lodging. The miniſters, ſince the Reſtoration of Presbytery, and dates of their ſettlements, have been:

1712-13—Mr Alexander M'Bean, afterwards miniſter at Inverneſs.

1716. Mr Alexander Ray, who died here in 1735.

1736. Mr Alexander Fraſer, tranſlated in 1755 to Inverneſs.

1756. Mr Thomas Simpſon, who died here in 1786.

Sept. 1787. Mr James Smith, the preſent incumbent.

The miniſter of Avoch is co-adminiſtrator with the miniſter of Roſemarky, of the fund which pays the maſters ſalaries in the academy at Fortroſe; and of ſome lands bequeathed by a late Counteſs of Seaforth, for the ſupport of the poor in ſame burgh.

The parochial ſchool of Avoch is attended by about 50 ſcholars. The maſter's ſalary, payable by the heritors, is 6l. 13s. 4d. Sterling. His wages and emoluments, as ſeſſion clerk and preſenter, may, *communibus annis*, amount to 3l. more. He teaches Engliſh, Latin, Writing, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, and Church muſic. But the fees from his ſcholars, as the tenantry in general are not able to afford much, will ſeldom exceed 10l. Sterling. So that this office is ſcarcely worth 20l. a year.

There is a ſewing ſchool for girls in the Kirktown, and two or three ſmall ſchools in different corners of the pariſh, for initiating young children to read, but they have no ſalaries.

A ſunday ſchool, on a proper plan, and a ſpinning ſchool, for teaching young girls to work at the two-handed wheel, would both be found exceedingly uſeful inſtitutions in ſuch

a populous pariſh as this, and where the linen manufacture ſtands much in need of improvement.

State of the Poor, &c.—There are about 40 indigent perſons now on the roll. The funds for their relief are the intereſt of 33l. 6s. 8d. Sterling, bequeathed by the late Sir Kenneth M'Kenzie of Scatwell in the hands of his own family;—the intereſt of about 50l. more under the ſeſſion's management; and the public voluntary contributions in church: which laſt, at an average of three years bygone, amounts to 8l. 11s. 4d. Sterling yearly. All theſe funds, however, can afford but a ſcanty help to each.

A crew of the fiſhermen having been accidentally drowned in 1792, left ſeven widows and a good many dependents, ſome of them in moſt pitiable circumſtances. One young girl, in particular, who, at 19 years of age, had been married only ſeven months before, was, by this unforſeen accident, bereaved at once of her huſhand! her father! her brother! and was left big with child, and in debt! On this melancholy occaſion, it was found neceſſary to aſk ſome charitable aſſiſtance from other places. And a liberal ſupply was obtained, adequate to their more immediate needs. For, beſides what was collected within the bounds of this preſbytery, the following contributions from different quarters, moſtly unſolicited, were remitted to the kirk ſeſſion for relief of thoſe unfortunate people, and have all been diſtributed among them, viz.

From the town and neighbourhood of Inverneſs, -	Sterling L.	32 5 0
From ſome gentlemen of Nairn-ſhire, and Fort George, -		6 5 6
And a collection made in the pariſh church of Alneſs, -		5 1 8

The

The diſtreſs of the widows having thus been mitigated, particularly until ſuch of them as had been left pregnant were delivered, and nurſed their infants, they have almoſt all now returned to proper habits of induſtry, ſufficient to ſupport themſelves and their families. Such examples, it is hoped, will not be thought miſplaced in this record, becauſe they not only, in their meaſure, do honour to human nature, but may tend to encourage others to "*do likewiſe*," in ſimilar caſes!

The deficiency of crop 1782 was ſeverely felt in this pariſh, except by ſome farmers near the ſhore. But from the great quantities of corn then imported, and the ſeaſonable ſupply ſent by Government for the poor, it is not believed, that any perſon here died then of want. And the more induſtrious tenants have ſince compleatly recovered from the effects of that year, upon their little ſtock and credit.

General Character of the Inhabitants.—The pariſhioners here are moſtly of a middle ſize, ſtrong and healthy, and capable of enduring a good deal of fatigue and labour. There may be 8 or 10 men among them ſix feet high; and very few dwarfs or deformed perſons are to be ſeen ¶.

Means

¶ The inhabitants of the country part are generally but in poor circumſtances. Hence they feel many ſtraits in bringing up their families. This, with the ſcarcity and increaſed wages of ſervants, obliges ſome of them to put their children to hard work rather too ſoon; even the greater farmers, who, as they raiſe bread for many others, ſhould have it in their own power to live pretty comfortably in their ſphere, enjoy here but few of the comforts, and none of the luxuries of life; except, perhaps, in the uſe of ſpirituous liquors, to which both they and the fiſhermen have become of late too much addicted. This has taken place almoſt entirely of that wholeſome ſtrengthening beverage, good beer, which their fathers harmleſsly quaffed. The preſent generation are, indeed, better clothed; but they eat leſs and coarſer bread, and have, perhaps, leſs ready money. Their houſes alſo, are for moſt part miſerably dirty, ſmoaky, and

Means by which their Condition could be meliorated.—If the Britiſh Society for improving and extending the fiſheries, or the

and meanly furniſhed. But, as they have little acquaintance with any better condition, ſo long as they can make a ſtretch to pay their rent and their debts, they appear contented with their own. Their moral character is, in general, good, if we except only a few vices and failings, to which their ſtraitened ſituation expoſes them. They are honeſt and induſtrious, faithful to their maſter or landlords, and attached to their King and Country. As to religion, the greater part of them appear ſerious and devout, and regularly attend on public worſhip and ordinances. In moſt pariſhes here, it is not uncommon for ſeveral thouſands of people to aſſemble, from all corners of the country, on a ſacramental occaſion.

Marriages, in this place, are generally conducted in the ſtile of penny weddings. Little other fare is provided, except bread, ale, and whiſky. The relatives, who aſſemble in the morning, are entertained with a dram and a drink *gratis*. But, after the ceremony is performed, every man pays for his drink. The neighbours then convene in great numbers. A fiddler or two, with perhaps a boy to ſcrape on an old violincello, are engaged. A barn is alloted for the dancing; and the houſe for drinking. And thus, they make merry for two or three days, till Saturday night. On Sabbath, after returning from church, the married couple give a ſort of dinner or entertainment to the preſent friends on both ſides. So that thoſe weddings, on the whole, bring little gain or loſs to the parties.

As ſuperſtitious prejudices begin to wear out, the practice of inoculation for the ſmall pox gains ground conſiderably here; though it is not ſo ſucceſsful as in other parts, owing to many of the parents not following the ſurgeon's preſcriptions; and giving ardent ſpirits to their children, even during the height of the diſeaſe.

At common funerals, in this diſtrict, the corpſe is preceded by the pariſh officer tolling a hand bell. The pall or mort-cloth is of plain black velvet, without any decoration, except a fringe. An immenſe crowd of both ſexes attend. And the lamentations of the women, in ſome caſes, on ſeeing a beloved relative put into the grave, would almoſt pierce a heart of ſtone.

The inhabitants of Seatown live more comfortably than of the country: And they begin now to build neat commodious houſes, which coſt above 20l. Sterling, each. Among the fiſhers, it uſual for both ſexes to marry at, or under 20 years of age. And of ſeveral of their families; there are four gene-

rations

the Hon. Board of Truſtees for fiſheries, manufactures, and improvements in Scotland, would, over and above the bounties now allowed by Government, grant ſome premiums to actual fiſhermen for a few years at the different herring ſtations in the North; to three or four, at leaſt, of the herring boats at each ſtation, whoſe crew, conſiſting of a fixed number, and within a limited time of every ſeaſon, ſhould catch and deliver the greateſt quantities of good herrings to the curers;—this, it is believed, would excite much emulation among the hands, and be attended with many beneficial conſequences. A pier, ſufficient for boats and ſmall ſloops, would render this ſtation much more commodious and ſafe than at preſent, and could be built for a moderate ſum: And, if the bounds of the Seatown were extended, by throwing a bridge

rations now living in the place. Their women are, in general, hardy and robuſt, and can bear immenſe burdens. Some of them will carry a hundred weight of wet fiſh a good many miles up the country. As the bay is flat, and no pier has yet been built, ſo that the boats muſt often take ground a good way off from the ſhore, theſe poiſſardes have a peculiar cuſtom of carrying out and in their huſbands on their backs, "to keep their men's feet dry," as they ſay. They bring out, in like manner, all the fiſh and fiſhing tackles, and at theſe operations, they never repine to wade, in all weathers, a conſiderable diſtance into the water. Hard as this uſage muſt appear, yet there are few other women ſo cleanly, healthy, or ſo long livers in the country.

During the laſt war, 13 Avoch men were preſſed into the Royal Navy, and though moſt of theſe ſerved in Admiral Parker's own ſhip in his dreadful engagement with the Dutch off the Dogger Bank, as well as in other actions, not one of them was hurt by the enemy. Their regular and good behaviour was acknowledged by all their officers, and eleven of the number returned home in 1783, with a good many guineas each of ſaved money. Mr Dundas's late regulations for the punctual pay of ſeamen, will be very beneficial in this reſpect; and will encourage them to enter much more readily than before. The greateſt hardſhips now, is leaving their families; as they commonly marry at ſuch an early period of life; and are all happy and contented with their ſituation and circumſtances at home

bridge over the burn, and proper ſecurity given the men, by way of feus or otherwiſe, for building good houſes on a regular plan along the adjoining ſhore;—from the increaſe of their families, it is more than probable, that the extent and population of this thriving village would be doubled within 50 years hence. ¶

Antiquities.—The foundations ſtill remain of a large old caſtle or *Fortalice*, on the top a little hill near Caſtletown-point, about 200 feet above the level of the ſea. This mount is called by ſome, *Ormondy hill*: And tradition gives the name of *Douglas Caſtle* to the ruin. It covers an oblong ſpace,

¶ As to the country part of the pariſh, though the farms are, in general, too highly rented, conſidering the preſent mode of huſbandry here; yet, if the heritors would be perſuaded to give their more active and beſt ſtocked tenants, leaſes for 38 years, or for 19 years and a life, at the preſent rents, with ſome encouragement to incloſe their grounds and build better ſteadings; and taking the the tenants bound to have always a third part of each farm under graſs, and to keep their cattle at home during ſummer, and to winter herd; the face of the country would be improved, the example followed by others, the condition of the tenantry amended, and the preſent ſecurity and future intereſt of the landlords promoted. The more effectually to bring about thoſe ſo deſireable objects, thirlage ſhould be aboliſhed, by parcelling out the preſent rent of each miln proportionably upon the different farms bound to it: and the uſe of lime and marle, under proper reſtrictions, ſhould be introduced and encouraged among the farmers.

As the linen manufacture ſeems to be the moſt agreeable, and beſt adapted to this pariſh, a good lint mill, on the burn of Ayoch, would both ſave a great deal of valuable time which the inhabitants now ſpend in dreſſing their flax by the ſtock and hand method, and would tend much to promote the farther cultivation of it. Machinery for ſtriking pot barley, could be included under the ſame roof at a ſmall expence, and would probably be well employed by both the country and the neighbouring towns. To theſe hints, we ſhall only add, that to ſuppreſs in future the ſwarm of unlicenſed tippling-houſes, and to have only four or five proper perſons, duly licenſed, for retailing whiſky and beer, within this pariſh, would be found productive of moſt happy conſequences to the morals of the people and the public good.

ſpace, about 350 feet long and 160 feet broad, divided into a good many apartments, which had been ſtrongly built of coarſe red quarry ſtone and lime, with a foſſe on one ſide, and the appearance of baſtions towards another. From its peculiar ſituation, and apparent ſtrength of the works, it may have been eaſily defended before the invention of artillery. There are ſeveral traces of old encampments on different moors in the pariſh. A trench or row of large human bones was lately diſcovered, a good way beyond the boundary of the preſent burying ground. And there are ſeveral long ſtones in the church-yard, of a hard cloſe texture, with antique figures of ſpears, arrows, and ſtars, carved upon them *in alto relievo*. All theſe may be veſtiges of the conflicts of the Northern Clans, or of defences againſt the Danes, and other foreign invaders from this Frith. But no authentic hiſtory or tradition, worth mentioning, is now extant concerning them.

END OF THE FIFTEENTH VOLUME.

Additional Notes to the Account of the Pariſh of WILTON,

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH,

BY DR CHARTERS.

THE following numeration was made laſt ſeaſon: Males 565; females 650; under 20, 546; from 20 to 60, 576; above 60, 81; above 80, 12; widowers, 26; widows, 61. The heritors have lately elected an able ſchoolmaſter, raiſed his ſalary from 100 merks, to 10l. and built a commodious ſchool-houſe. There are upwards of 100 ſcholars. Lending books to the pariſhioners, I have found uſeful, and think that pariſh libraries, conſiſting not only of religious books, but of ſuch as the Statiſtical Hiſtory, might be a public good. The tendency to expenſive dreſs among young women, is the ſame here as in other parts. A tax on ſilk, amounting to a prohibition of it among maid ſervants, would be an advantage to them. The poor-rate is at preſent 50l. a quarter. Some objections have been made to poor-rates, the validity of which ſhould be tried by facts. 1ſt, It is alledged that poor-rates weaken parental and filial affection, "the holieſt affections of humanity." Let the fact be fairly enquired into, and it will be found, that many children labour hard to prevent their parents from receiving an aliment; and that children in good circumſtances who ſuffer their parents to receive it are infamous:

famous:—A proof that the caſe is rare.—During twenty two years miniſtry in a pretty numerous pariſh, where the poor are maintained by taxation, I have known only one inſtance of children refuſing to aſſiſt their parents; they forfeited the eſteem of their neighbours, and baniſhed themſelves to America. Affection, both parental and filial, is chilled by want: *the hind calveth, and forſaketh her calf, becauſe there is no graſs*: Under the preſſure of poverty, a mother may forget her ſucking child; the child that is forſaken, or ſent out to beg and to wander, or forced to labour prematurely, retains no affection for a deſtitute parent: Whereas, among a widow and her children, who are kept together by an aliment, mutual affection grows. When the aged receive an aliment, their poor children are no longer depreſſed with the view of miſery, which they were unable to remove, and which tempted them to turn away from their father's houſe: Filial affection returns; they think with gratitude on a law which gives the neceſſaries of life to their parents, and by adding ſome cordials and comforts, they teſtify and cheriſh filial love. The miniſter of a populous pariſh, where there is no poors-rate, is diſtreſſed with the view of indigence which he cannot relieve, and may be tempted to turn away his eye from beholding it: But under the benign influence of poor laws, he can enter the abodes of the wretched, as the meſſenger of good tidings. The law which provides for the poor, inſtead of diſſolving, tends to ſtrengthen paſtoral, and parental, and filial love. 2d, It is alledged, that the poor rate prevents the common people from laying up againſt the time of need. The deſire of laying up is ſo ſtrong, that the poor-rate has not yet, and probably never will extinguiſh it. A ſpirit of independence pervades the people; they feel the humiliation of receiving alms; they diſcern the difference betwixt having of their own, and truſting to what is given. The poor law is an inſurance againſt unforeſeen misfortune, and removes that anxious ſolicitude about what they ſhall eat and drink and put on, which the goſpel has forbidden.

forbidden. If a legal proviſion for the poor ſhall ſomewhat abate the general and ſtrong deſire to lay up treaſures on earth, the effect is happy. View the poor man in his future deſtination, and whatever alleviates mortal cares, ſmooths his way to immortality. 3*d*, It is aſked, with ſome degree of alarm, what will be the final conſequence of alimenting the poor,—for, wherever this tax is impoſed, it increaſes gradually? This gradual increaſe, where it takes place, may be owing to two cauſes; *Firſt*, that ſome are induced through falſe ſhame to ſuffer extreme want, rather than accept of an aliment. *Second*, that thoſe who appoint the aliment are at firſt too ſparing; the more frequently and attentively they conſider the caſe of the poor, they are diſpoſed to give the more. Let falſe ſhame be combated, and the miſerable inſtructed in their rights. Let thoſe who have the management of the poor, proceed till every indigent perſon be fonnd out, and their real wants ſupplied. When all that need have been perſuaded to aſk, and when thoſe who give, have learned to give enough, the rate will become ſtationary; till then it ought to riſe. 'The law which gives a maintenance to the poor, is one of the bulwarks of the Britiſh government, by which it is defended from the rage of want and deſpair. Heritors and Kirk Seſſions, to whom the execution of this law is committed, will give a ſubſtantial and ſeaſonable proof of their attachment to our happy Conſtitution, by making the poor of the land to participate its bleſſings. Were thoſe who lately aſſumed to themſelves the amiable name, *Friends of the People*, to new-model our Conſtitution, it is much to be feared, that a law in favour of the indigent would not be found in their code; and if ſuch a law were found in their code, it is ſtill much to be feared, that the new poſſeſſors of unrighteous mammon, would not be forward to execute the law of mercy.'

N. B. The carpet and inkle factories, mentioned in the hiſtory of Hawick, are the ſame that were formerly mentioned in the hiſtory of Wilton, where they actually are.

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